



Shock: Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands reacting with horror as Amsterdam's fire commander shows her what was left of the flats hit by the crashing jumbo jet

Shares plunge in Major's new black Monday

By PHILIP WEBSTER and NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN Major last night declared his determination to weather the political and economic storms battering his government after a day in which the pound slumped to a new low and shares suffered their biggest fall since the 1987 stock market crash.

The pound went into freefall, closing 4.02 pence down at DM2.3930, a new postwar low and an effective devaluation of 18.9 per cent from the former European exchange-rate mechanism mid-point of DM2.95. More than £14 billion was wiped off the paper value of shares as fears grew that interest rates would rise. The FTSE index fell by 103.4 points to 2446.3.

Share dealers said that they marked prices down severely because of fears of higher taxes and a rise in interest rates to rescue the falling pound. They also feared that the government lacked a clear strategy to defend the pound.

The director-general of the CBI launched a strong criticism of the government, saying that it was "dancing in the dark" without a policy to tackle the real problems of the economy. Howard Davies called for a policy for industrial growth, founded on a shared assessment of the nature of the problem. "We need to reach agreement on the areas in which improvements are needed which can provide a strategic framework for developing public spending priorities for the future," he said.

With the government under siege and ministers apparently helpless to stop the sterling slide, the prime minister countered with a defiant speech to Conservative party agents, warning of tough decisions on public spending and underlining his readiness to confront his critics over Europe.

Only six months after the startling election victory, Tony

activists arrived for their Brighton conference last night gripped by foreboding about the government's prospects. The conference opens today with a debate on Europe in which dissidents will call for a referendum on Maastricht. But the overriding difficulty for the government now is the economy and the future of Norman Lamont as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Questioned as he went into the conference hotel at about 5.30pm, Mr Major tried to calm the markets and his supporters by saying that there was "currency turbulence across Europe. I do not think you should get unduly panicked about it."

Conservative high command issued a series of statements predicting that the conference would back the prime minister, Sir Norman Fowler, party chairman, even likened Mr Major's predicament to his position during the election campaign when virtually all the opinion polls pointed to defeat.

Within hours of arriving in Brighton, Mr Major used his speech to party agents to pledge that he would not be blown off course on the economy or Maastricht, which he said he had no intention of abandoning. He moved to defuse fears of imminent tax increases by telling them that his objective remained a "low inflation, low taxation economy", underlining the severity of the public spending squeeze over which ministers continued to argue yesterday.

He told the agents: "This is a decisive time for Britain. We must make difficult choices to shape our future. Sometimes it is necessary to speak home truths. That is what the people of Britain expect of us and that is what we will do."

He said that Europe was the best way of serving British interests and that any backing down over Maastricht would jeopardise the country's stance in future negotiations.

As Mr Major showed his resolve to take them on, his Euro-sceptic opponents began their Brighton campaign with a veiled warning that they

might withhold support for the government across a broad range of legislation if he pushed through the Maastricht bill with Labour help. Tony Marlow, MP for Northampton North, said: "If they are going to force this through on the basis of a coalition with the Labour party, they may well find that they will have to do rather more in coalition with the Labour party as days go by." He added: "A large proportion of the activists would like to see the Maastricht treaty taken out, wrapped in concrete, and dropped in the English Channel."

Lord Tebbit, the former party chairman, said last night that Baroness Thatcher was keeping silent on the current crisis because she did not want to make matters worse for Mr Major. Lord Tebbit, who appears to be acting as Lady Thatcher's unofficial spokesman, also dismissed Germany's initiative to strengthen the commitment to subsidiarity. "When the courts come to interpret the treaty they will not look at clarifications tacked on at meetings in Birmingham or anywhere else. They will look at what the treaty says."

At a press conference last night, Sir Norman Fowler predicted that the conference would "absolutely back" Mr Lamont and Mr Major. "The reason they will back the prime minister is that they remember that, during the election campaign, the prime minister was under a great deal of attack. Many people told him he was going down to defeat. He came through that. "One of the reasons he came through was that he set it out absolutely straight on things like PR and devolution. They respect that: they will back not just the government but the prime minister."

Pay demands, page 2
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Devastation: daylight reveals the full extent of the wreckage in Bijlmermeer

ON OTHER PAGES

Tunnel delayed

Channel tunnel shuttle services will not begin before December, 1993, at least six months later than originally planned. Sir Alister Morton, Eurotunnel's chief executive said the delay was due to the lack of progress by Transmanche Link, the Anglo-French construction consortium. Page 4

Moscow blamed

Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, blamed Russian forces for the downing of a helicopter as his troops battled to reverse the recent advances of Muslim rebels. Page 9

Bush barrage

George Bush's campaign managers, who have \$40m to spend before polling day next month, are launching advertisements attacking Bill Clinton. Page 10

For Australia, knights have had their day

By ALAN HAMILTON

NO MORE Sir Donald Bradman, Dame Nellie Melba, or even Sir Les Patterson and Dame Edna. After years of not having much to do with the ceremonial trappings of the mother country, and even being apparently rude to their Queen on her last visit there, Australians have finally and formally abandoned the British honours system.

Not that there have been many Australian knights of late. Labour governments in Canberra from Gough Whitlam onwards have eschewed the system, and the present Labour prime minister, Paul Keating, has formally announced an end to his countrymen receiving British gongs. The Queen, who does not have much choice in the matter, has agreed.

Mr Keating offended monarchist sensibilities during the Queen's last state visit to Australia when his speech of welcome in the federal parliament

was widely interpreted as a statement of his country's commitment to republicanism. Mr Keating further enraged British opinion by suggesting that Australian troops had been left to their fate at the fall of Singapore in 1942. The felony was compounded when his wife declined the customary cursey when presented to the woman who is still Australia's head of state.

Although the federal government has declined to participate in the system for many years, the old order clung on until recently in the states of Queensland and Tasmania. The last serious proponent of British honours was Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, the eccentric former premier of Queensland who, in spite of being tapped on his own shoulder, now languishes in obscurity and disgrace.

A spokesman for Mr Keating said yesterday that

El Al engines failure was carbon copy of Taiwan crash

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT AND LIN JENKINS IN BIJLMERMEER

AIR crash investigators trying to find the cause of the Amsterdam disaster that killed up to 250 people are anxious to discover clues from a near identical air catastrophe. Again, two starboard engines of the freighter broke off soon after take-off.

An identical aircraft, fitted with the similar Pratt and Whitney JT9D engines and belonging to China Airlines, crashed into a mountain in Taiwan last December as it headed out en route for Alaska although three crew members were killed the crash was barely reported and little notice was taken outside Taiwan.

Now, however, crash investigators are anxious to discover if there is any link between the two aviation accidents which appear to have disturbing similarities.

"At first sight the two incidents do appear similar but at the moment there is no factual evidence to link them," a Boeing spokesman said in Seattle last night. "Both starboard engines from the China Airlines aircraft were recovered from the sea but no conclusive evidence has been obtained from them."

As the death toll in Amsterdam reached almost 250 last night, making it the worst aviation accident to involve non-passengers on the ground, an enquiry into the cause of the Chinese crash was still going on. Crash teams still diving off Taiwan to find vital missing parts, will be asked to establish whether the engines broke away from the wing perhaps shearing specially weakened "sacrificial" bolts designed to separate as the main fuselage hits an obstacle or crash lands in

water — or whether one exploded and was so damaged the engine alongside that it, too, broke up and was torn from its pylon.

In Amsterdam the search is continuing for the "black box" flight recorder that will help to show why the El Al jet could not maintain height. The pilot battled for six minutes to keep his aircraft in the air while he struggled to return to Schiphol airport before falling and plunging into two blocks of flats.

Air-traffic controllers had wanted him to land on runway 06 because the winds were the most favourable. He however selected runway 27, claiming the east to west wind would assist his landing.

Hanja Maj-Wegman, the Dutch transport minister, released the details yesterday and told a packed press conference that while the cause was not known there were no indications that terrorism was involved. "At this moment nothing is ruled out. The first impression is that there was a technical problem."

Police yesterday revised their estimate on the number killed to 250 based on reports from friends and relatives. Three people were critically ill in hospital with burns and another 20 were receiving treatment for cuts and burns. Ronald Korevaar, spokesman for the medical centre, said initially preparations were made for 160 injured. "That so few people were injured shows the nature of the disaster. People died immediately or escaped harm."

Queen Beatrix visited many of the orphaned and bereaved at the Bijlmermeer sports

Continued on page 16, col 3

Survivors saw family die

SEVERAL crash survivors witnessed their families perish as the fireball engulfed their homes. Jurisius Holdford, 32, who had been installing a washing machine in a friend's flat in the block opposite, could see his wife in their flat moments before the accident occurred.

"I could see her in the flat on the ninth floor ironing ready for school today. I heard a plane coming down on the roof and I saw it on one side,

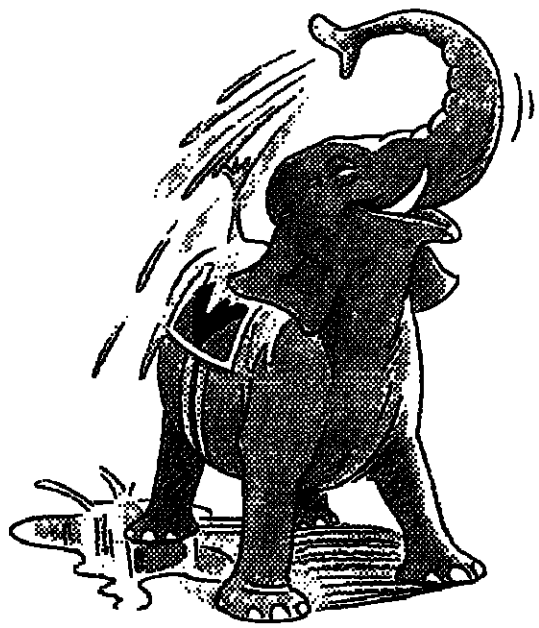
one wing up and one down. Then bang. It's on fire."

Norma Habibi, 32, had left her five-year-old daughter and three-year-old son with a neighbour while she went shopping. "I saw this terrible black shadow coming down on the block. There was a great deal of fire and then the block fell to pieces. Our poor little babies died in there."

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Sea sights: an armed member of the special operations unit of Sussex police guarding the venue of the Conservative party conference in Brighton yesterday

Public sector battle begins

Nurses seek 8.7% rise 'to uphold charter'

By JEREMY LAURANCE AND PATRICIA TEHAN

NURSES' leaders called yesterday for a pay rise two-and-a-half times the rate of inflation and said that the NHS would be unable to maintain services if it was not paid.

The rise, of 8.7 per cent (compared with an inflation rate of 3.6 per cent) was necessary to restore pay to 1988 levels, they said in their evidence to the pay review body. "The improvements promised in the government's patient's charter will be jeopardised if shortages of nursing staff are permitted to reappear by a short-term attitude to pay," the evidence says.

The claim would add more than £500 million to the present pay bill of £6.6 billion covering 600,000 nurses, midwives and health visitors. Ward nurses are currently paid from £7,000 to £22,000. Judith Carter, of the Nursing and Midwifery Negotia-

ing Council, said that nursing was being squeezed as the number of school leavers fell but the birth rate and number of elderly increased. Nursing would have to recruit one in three suitably qualified school leavers in 1993-4 to meet the forecast increase in demand, she said.

Despite rises above inflation in recent years, nurses' pay has slipped relative to average earnings since 1988. Any further erosion of the position will "reassert the image of nursing as a low paid profession and recruitment and retention difficulties will follow", the evidence to the review body says.

Turnover among nurses has fallen from 25 per cent to below 10 per cent as a result of the recession and the vacancy rate remains low at between 2 and 3 per cent. "But it is absolutely essential that the government takes a long term view," Ms Carter said.

Teachers, top-salaried public employees, the armed forces and doctors and dentists have also begun negotiations for pay awards to come into force in April. Their claims will add to pressure on John Major to take a firm line on public sector salaries.

Claims from the teaching unions range from 6 per cent to one of 16.5 per cent. The National Union of Teachers, which put in the higher claim, and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers yesterday rejected plans to introduce performance-related pay as "crude and unfair".

The independent School Teachers' Pay Review Body is expected to recommend performance-related pay in January for introduction next year. It is in favour of a merit reward for schools, but John Patten, the education secretary, wants all 400,000 teachers to be put on individual schemes.

The 60,000 teachers in further education have submitted a claim to management for a 12.5 per cent rise.

In July, 19,000 university clerical staff agreed a 5.5 per cent rise and university academics agreed 6 per cent. They are currently discussing performance-related pay.

Doctors and dentists say that their claims have gone to their review body, but they have not made their evidence public. Top-salaried public servants have not yet begun to submit claims and pay evidence from the armed forces is not all in yet.

Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, has just agreed a 6.5 per cent pay rise for Britain's 145,000 police, backdated to the beginning of September. In November, 40,000 fire fighters are due to receive an index-linked award tied to the earnings of the top 25 per cent of male manual workers.

Last March, ambulance staff accepted a 4.75 per cent pay rise, and prison officers agreed 4.25 per cent in April. Other pay offers currently being negotiated for local government staff are between 4.1 per cent and 4.4 per cent.

□ Opposition parties said yesterday that spending cuts could lead to a "thirty-style slump" as the special cabinet committee tussled over who should bear the brunt of the tightest public expenditure round for a decade (Jill Sherman writes). The EDX committee, chaired by Norman Lamont, weighed up a number of options to contain spending within the £244.5 billion baseline set for next year.

The options are said to include cutbacks on housing, road and hospital building programmes. Labour said public spending cuts would only get the economy and the Conservatives deeper into trouble. Donald Dewar, shadow spokesman for social security, said it would be "a disgrace if those on benefit were made to pay for the crisis".

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'Too soft' Major worries Tories

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND RAY CLANCY

AS THE representatives arrived in Brighton yesterday for the Conservative conference, they displayed nervousness and looked forward to robust performances from John Major and Norman Lamont to raise party morale.

Rank and file members see the addresses of the prime minister and the Chancellor as crucial to the success of the conference and to restoring battered confidence.

Although representatives expressed total faith in Mr Major's leadership, there was widespread concern that he had not taken a sufficiently positive stand in controlling dissenters within the party. Arthur Newell, from Enfield and Southgate, advised the prime minister: "You can't be wishy-washy. You must take your stand and stick to it."

The dominating role of Baroness Thatcher as Mr Major's predecessor is frequently recalled when members call for a similarly bold stance by the prime minister. "This is the time for real leadership. To steal a phrase: 'There is no alternative,'" said one west London member.

Compared with domestic economic problems, internal Tory rumblings over the exchange-rate mechanism are seen by many members as of secondary importance. Many constituency representatives have arrived with the fears of home owners and small businesses uppermost in their minds. They will press for cuts in public spending, rather than higher interest rates, as the best route to curb inflation.

Pro-Europeans in cabinet back return to ERM

Tough anti-inflation policies, not big interest rate cuts, find favour among some ministers, Peter Riddell reports

SENIOR pro-European members of the cabinet are determined that the new economic policy being prepared by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, should not prevent a return by sterling to the exchange-rate mechanism within the next couple of years.

That aim lies behind the recent warnings by Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, and Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, of the dangers of too large a fall in sterling and their demands for a tough anti-inflation policy. Mr Clarke said at the weekend that the government had to have "a monetary and fiscal policy that gives traders some stability, that stops the pound sinking in a year or two's time. We certainly don't want a great deal more devaluation."

At last Thursday's cabinet meeting, the pro-EC majority accepted that there was no point at present in seeking a firm commitment to a date for a return to the ERM until British and German economic conditions were more in line and that, in the meantime, it was better to press ahead with ratification of the Maastricht treaty by Parliament.

Nonetheless, the pro-EC ministers believe that British policy should continue to be developed in a way which permits a return to the ERM. That involves maintaining a tough anti-inflationary stance rather than cutting interest rates by a large amount and allowing the pound to fall sharply, which might make re-entry more difficult.

The Bank of England and some Whitehall advisers also favour a stable pound, in effect behaving as if sterling was still in the ERM at a lower rate, rather than permitting a free fall. The minority of Eurosceptics in the cabinet believe that interest rates should be set primarily in the light of do-

mestic conditions and the need to encourage recovery. That would permit lower interest rates, in their view.

Even outside the ERM, Britain is still seeking to ensure that its fiscal policy is in line with the so-called convergence indicators for the whole of the EC. That means trying to reduce the budget deficit to 3 per cent of national income.

But the previous target of a balanced budget has been pushed into the indefinite future, with the British deficit heading towards 5 per cent or more next year. However, the 3 per cent is a guideline triggering consultations rather than requiring mandatory action. John Major's suggestion that sterling may not re-enter the system for 18 months to two years does not rule out the pound later becoming part of a move towards a single currency. His comments would permit re-entry before the end of 1994, which is the date by which a currency is supposed to move within the narrow band of the ERM under the timetable for economic and monetary union.

The government has also been toning down its earlier insistence on fundamental reform of the ERM before Britain can re-enter. Instead, the talk now is of a review of its operations by experts. Such a study will be put in place by the EC summit in Birmingham in ten days' time, though nothing more definite will be said about the ERM then.

Finance ministers will not even attend the meeting. The British hope is that a low-key long-term review may produce changes which other EC countries will not publicly accept now.

While the immediate focus is on policy outside the ERM, the implications for the timing of any possible re-entry to the ERM are not being forgotten by the participants.

Archbishop attacks government policy

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, launched a strong attack on government policy last night, condemning possible cuts in overseas aid. In a speech on the eve of the Conservative conference in Brighton, he attacked the secular values and "unbridled individualism" of the 1980s, warning that the cult of the individual would lead ultimately to the death of society.

In an article in today's *Times*, Dr Carey goes on to link mass unemployment to a lack of strong moral principles in the public arena. In a lecture last night at Toyahbee Hall, east London, he said many eastern European countries would look to countries such as Britain for role models to replace the failed communist ideology, only to find discontent caused by capitalism.

He criticised the "increasing power of faceless people in Whitehall, in the EC, in international business cartels and bureaucracies", and said: "Our life chances appear to be at the mercy of unstoppable surges of speculative capital."

"It provokes anxiety when our life chances appear to be at the mercy of unstoppable surges of speculative capital which engulf even the Bank of England, let alone the ordinary citizen," Dr Carey added. "Many people today feel powerless and insignificant. And within that framework, a substantial minority feel they have no real stake at all."

Dr Carey provoked controversy last year when he linked the Tyneside riots with social deprivation. He added last night: "We have witnessed a powerful ideological attack during the 1980s on the value of public goods, together with a 'strong affirmation of private values and individual choice.' In some quarters, he said, morality had been reduced to a matter of individual opinion, where questions of right and wrong were a matter of individual feeling. Individualism had triumphed over community, leaving a moral void. Fighting hunger, page 5; Dr Carey, page 12.

Damages for minister

Michael Forsyth, the employment minister, accepted substantial undisclosed libel damages yesterday over a Channel 4 programme which alleged that he was involved in a "dirty tricks" campaign against officials of the Scottish Conservative party. The High Court was told that there was no truth in the allegation, broadcast in the *Dispatches* series in June 1991. The broadcast concerned the purported existence of an organised group of right-wingers determined to dominate the Conservative party.

□ George Best, the former football international, received a public apology and undisclosed libel damages in the High Court over an article in *Star Kicks*, a football magazine.

Gang tortures driver

A gang of three kidnapped a man in his car and burnt him with cigarettes in an attempt to make him disclose the personal identification number for his cash card. The man, aged 30, was stopped in Rushmore, Greater Manchester. The gang forced him into the front passenger seat and drove a short distance before demanding the card. The victim gave them a false number and, after a frustrated attempt to withdraw money, the men drove their victim to his home, where they stole a video recorder. The man, still refusing to disclose his number, was burnt with cigarettes before being bundled into the boot of his car and dumped in a street. The car was later recovered in Moss Side.

Crowther critically ill

Leslie Crowther, the comedian and quiz-show host injured when his Rolls-Royce crashed on the M5 on Saturday, was last night in a "critically serious" condition after a second brain operation to clear a blood clot the size of a small apple. David Sandeman, a neurosurgeon, said after the three-hour operation: "In this sort of situation, which is dreadfully serious, there is a real risk of him not coming through." Mr Crowther, 59, received severe head injuries in the crash and remains on a life support system in Frenchay Hospital, Bristol. Mr Sandeman said that the next few days would be crucial as Mr Crowther's condition was complicated by a heart problem.

£10,000 exterminated



An anonymous television personality paid £10,000 for a "Tardis" said to be the one used by the first Dr Who, William Hartnell, in the BBC series which also featured the exterminating Daleks. The police-box time machine, left, was in an auction at Norton, near Gloucester of film and television effects. Later, Philip Lloyd, of the London Police Box Company, said that he did not believe the Tardis was the original, as that was known to have fallen to pieces. "It had been in use for years before, in *Dixon of Dock Green*."

Jobs 'cause asthma'

Working conditions often cause or aggravate asthma, campaigners said at yesterday's launch of national asthma week. In a survey of 420 members of the National Asthma Council, more than 50 per cent reported difficulties with fumes or dust at work and nearly 75 per cent said that passive smoking worsened their asthma. Almost 9 per cent of the sample had changed their jobs because of poor working conditions. The council said that asthma was the only treatable condition in western Europe growing in both the number of people it affected and in severity. About 90 per cent of fatal attacks were attributable to causes that were easily avoided.

Sex war debate sold out

Neil Lyndon meets his critics tonight in the *Times* and *Dillons Debate Has Feminism Failed?* All tickets have been sold. Mr Lyndon, author of *No More Sex War*, blames feminism for poisoning relations between the sexes and says that men are now the downtrodden sex. The debate at the Institute of Education in London is the fourth in a series and will be chaired by Melvyn Bragg. Mr Lyndon will lead the debate, seconded by Kenneth Minogue, professor of political science at the London School of Economics. Yvonne Roberts, author of *Mad about Women - Can There Ever Be Fair Play Between the Sexes*, will reply and will be seconded by Beatrix Campbell, author and journalist.

Correction

In a report on the effect of sterling devaluation on Christmas prices yesterday, we incorrectly described Mr John Hardman as chairman of Asda, the retail chain. In fact, Mr Hardman left Asda in June last year. The remarks attributed to him do not represent the views of Asda or its present chairman, Mr Patrick Gillam. We apologise for the error.

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Mori shows public concern over economic state

By PETER RIDDLELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE public has become much more concerned over the past three months about the economic situation in Britain, according to the latest Market and Opinion Research International (MORI) survey.

This underlines the challenge now facing Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, as he tries to rebuild confidence in the government's economic strategy.

The regular tracking by Mori of the important issues facing Britain today shows a sharp jump in mentions of the economy and of the economic

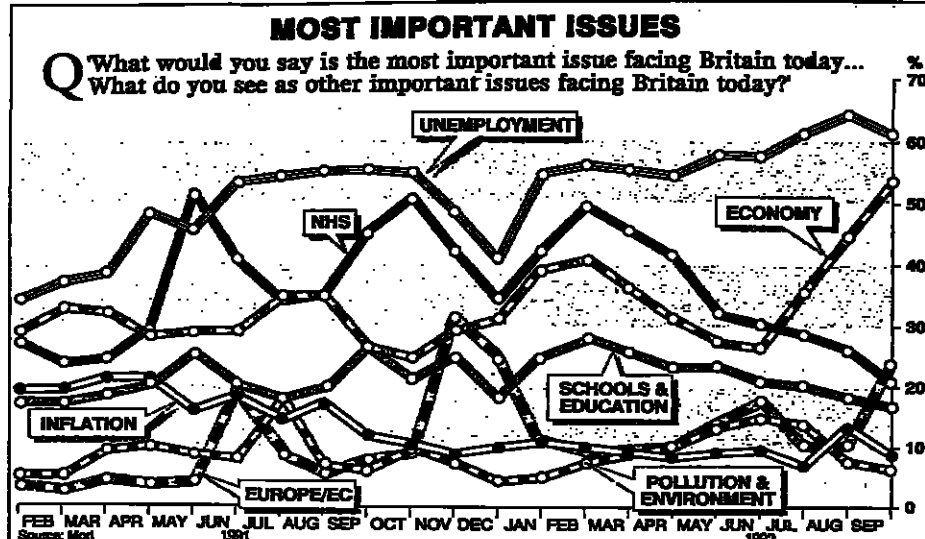
situation. These have risen from 26 per cent in June to 44 per cent in late August (before sterling was forced out of the exchange-rate mechanism) and up to 53 per cent at the end of September.

The economic situation is of particular concern to Tory supporters (58 per cent), the middle classes (63 per cent) and people buying their homes on mortgages (60 per cent).

Unemployment continues to rank highest among important issues facing Britain today, being mentioned by 61 per cent, compared with between 53 and 56 per cent at the beginning of this year.

The other marked change is in references to Europe being among the most important issues, up from 10 to 22 per cent during September following all the attention given to sterling's withdrawal from the ERM and the French referendum on the Maastricht treaty. This is the highest level since the Maastricht summit last December.

These findings on important issues facing Britain have been matched by a marked deterioration in the economic optimism index since the April general elec-



tion. In the spring there was a clear positive balance of plus 21 points, indicating that people expected the general economic conditions to improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months. But by the end of last month there was a negative balance of minus 37 points as pessimists outnumbered optimists by 52 to 20. This is the most pessimistic result since the minus 46 points of Septem-

ber 1990. Even Tory supporters are only narrowly optimistic now, by a margin of eight points at 37 to 29.

The deterioration in the economic optimism index has been reflected in a decline in support for the Tories since the election. Mori's latest aggregate poll, conducted from July to September, puts the average Tory rating over the three months at 39 per cent, compared with 43 per

cent for Labour and 14 per cent for the Liberal Democrats. This represents a 4 point drop in Tory support compared with the second quarter and a 5 point rise in Labour support.

Mori interviewed a representative quota sample of 6,400 adults aged over 18, at home, between July and September 1992. Data was weighted to match the profile of the population.

WHO SAID: 'THE SOFT, DEVALUERS OPTION IS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY'

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John 10:20

Banks' families held hostage by gunmen, robbery trial told

By JOHN YOUNG

A GANG of armed robbers extorted nearly £250,000 by kidnapping the families of three bank officials and a supermarket manager and threatening to torture and kill them, a court was told yesterday.

The fathers went to their offices and returned with cash after the men said they were ready to castrate children, pull out fingernails, pass electric currents through testicles with a stungun and post letter-bombs. A gun was placed in a man's mouth and a mother was asked which of her sons should die, it was alleged.

John Carlton, 37, also known as Hans Schultze, of Egham, southeast London, Sean Wain, 23, of Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex and Robert Moore, 23, of Southminster,

Essex, have pleaded not guilty at Chelmsford Crown Court to four charges of robbery and four of possessing a sawn-off shotgun with intent to commit robbery. Mr Wain's father, Robert, 48, of Southend-on-sea, Essex, denies conspiracy to rob and handling stolen goods.

Brian Higgs, QC, for the prosecution, said the first three men had taken part in four armed robberies that had been carefully planned and ruthlessly carried out.

"They burst into homes at night, wearing balaclava helmets and carrying sawn-off shotguns or other lethal weapons," he said. "The husbands, wives or children were kidnapped and held to ransom before the actual robberies occurred." They were subject-

ed to mental torture and threatened with appalling injury or death.

The similarity in the robbers' methods could only lead to the conclusion that it was the same team in each case, said Mr Higgs. "One robber appeared to take pleasure in what he was doing, particularly in frightening the victims. The others were quieter and seemingly more reasonable."

The first victim was Simon Culling, assistant manager of Barclays Bank in Kelvedon, Essex, in April 1989. He, his brother Philip and their mother Margaret were handcuffed together and pillowcases were placed over their heads. When his stepfather returned home, he too was handcuffed.

One of the men produced a 40,000 volt stungun and threatened to use it. In the morning, Mr Culling went to the bank and returned with £41,000 in a holdall.

In the second raid, two men burst into the home of David Coles, another bank official, and left him handcuffed while they pushed a pistol barrel into the mouth of his son, Richard, 19. When another son, Jonathan, 14, returned home, he was told he would be killed if he did not sit quietly and watch television. Next morning, Mr Coles brought cash from the bank.

The third raid was on the home of Robert Chittenden, manager of Barclays Bank in West Norwood, London, in January 1991. The family was asked which of his two daughters should be locked in the boot of a car, and she was released only after the bank paid a £75,000 ransom.

In the final raid, Bernard Andrews, manager of Tesco's in Copdock, near Ipswich, Suffolk, was held captive with his wife and his sons, James 15, and Matthew, 17. They were told gelignite would be posted to them if anyone were arrested.

Mr Andrews was asked how he would feel if one of his sons was castrated. He was told to get £80,000 from the shop safe but was able to find only £35,000. The family was later released in a wood in Suffolk. The trial continues today.

Shops threatened by HIV blackmail

By NICHOLAS WATT

A BLACKMAILER tried to extort money from a supermarket chain by threatening to contaminate food with HIV-infected blood. A news blackout was arranged after the man sent a letter, signed The Terminator, to the Budgens chain demanding £300,000.

After police had lifted the blackout last night, the health department said that the chances of the blackmailer succeeding were extremely remote. "There is no evidence that HIV can spread through food," a spokeswoman said. "The virus dies after it has left the body, though there is some debate as to how long it takes for it to die. The logistics of contaminating the food would have been very difficult."

The blackmailer sent his first letter to the Budgens distribution centre at Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, on September 7. A second letter arrived three days later. He claimed to have contaminated a non-food product at one store with something off-

er than the Aids virus to prove that he could tamper with the store's system. The branch was checked but no contamination was found.

A few days later the blackmailer sent a third letter, this time to the Daily Mirror threatening to target all 100 shops in the Budgens chain. He claimed that goods at nine shops were already contaminated by HIV. Budgens said that thorough checks were carried out daily at all stores, with staff removing products showing the slightest damage to packaging.

David Wyke, Northants assistant chief constable, said: "So far as we are aware there has been no further contact from the person who calls him or herself The Terminator and it remains the case that there is no evidence whatsoever that the threats made by that person have been carried through."

Customers wanting more advice or reassurance were asked to telephone 0800 526002 during office hours.

Mink farm owner sues for libel

By PAUL WILKINSON

A MINK farm called a "hellhole" by anti-fur trade activists was later given a clean bill of health by RSPCA and agriculture ministry inspectors, a libel jury was told yesterday.

The farm owner, Leo Sawrij, is seeking damages from the animal rights group Lynx, its founder Mark Glover and its consultant Stefan Ormrod over comments in a report on the farm and two subsequent articles in the group's newsletter. They say it was fair comment.

Jacques Algazy, for Mr Sawrij, told the High Court in Leeds that Mr Ormrod's report came after a 30-minute unannounced visit in August 1989 to Swalesmoor farm near Halifax. Mr Ormrod said in the newsletter that August that he saw dead mink lying alongside live ones.

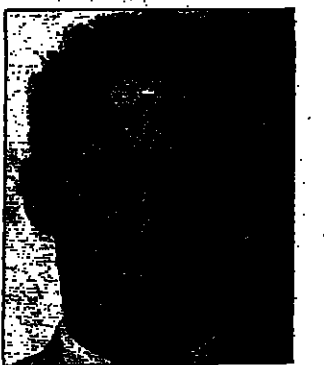
After Lynx made two more visits to the farm the next month, the site was visited by RSPCA and agriculture officials, who cleared Mr Sawrij. Mr Algazy said Lynx repeated the accusations a year later. The case continues today.

Soldier in bedsit siege denies killing

By ROBIN YOUNG

A LOVELOVE soldier killed an off-duty security guard and wounded a policeman while holding his former girlfriend prisoner in her flat, a court was told yesterday.

Lance Corporal Gregory Hobbins, 30, a military policeman based at Chelsea barracks, fired twice through the front door of the bedsit in Harlesden, northwest London, as police tried to break in. One bullet struck PC Royston Daniels in the shoulder, Graham Boal, for the prosecution, told the Old Bailey. The other shot killed Christopher Coyle.



Daniels: shot as he tried to break into the flat

a security guard living in the block of flats, who had come out to his landing to see what was happening and whether he could help.

Mr Hobbins had been holding Barbara Brady prisoner on March 4 after refusing to accept her decision that their relationship should end. Mr Boal said. Early on March 4, after drinking eight pints of beer, he stole an SA80 rifle and 20 rounds of ammunition from the barracks guardroom. He then used a colleague's car to drive to Miss Brady's home. She let him in after he threatened to break the lock.

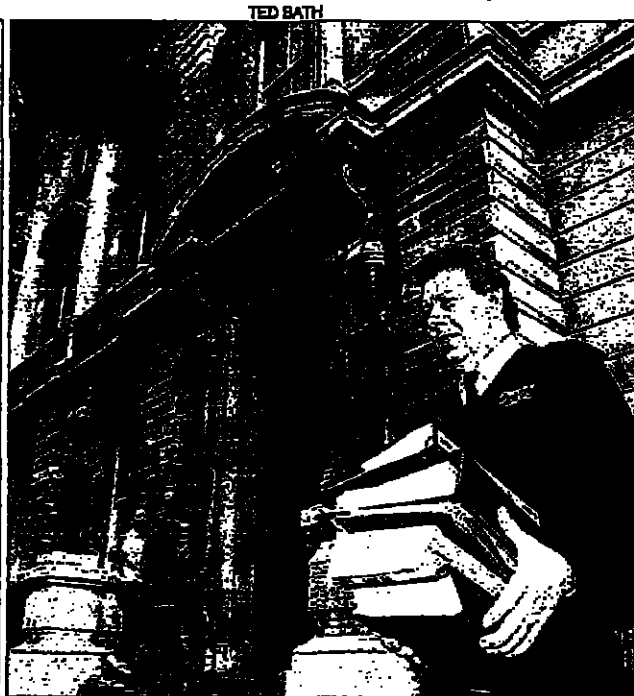
After the shootings, Miss Brady persuaded Mr Hobbins to take the magazine from his rifle and, when he went to the lavatory, she threw it out of the window. After three hours, he released her, threw the rifle out of the window and gave himself up. Mr Boal told the jury.

Mr Hobbins denies murder, attempted murder, wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, stealing a rifle and ammunition and possessing the rifle with intent to endanger life.

The trial continues today.



Weighty runner: John Townsend in 1804



Weighty files: Colin Pope clears out last documents

Time runs out for the Bow Street tradition

THE solid wooden riot doors of Bow Street police station closed yesterday, more than 230 years after John Fielding sent the first six Bow Street runners into London's streets (Stewart Tendler writes).

Inside, removal men were packing the last pieces of equipment for transfer to the new £20 million Charing Cross police station, already known unromantically as CX. In the charge room where Oscar Wilde and Dr Crippen stood before being taken down to the cells, a pink notice reminded all officers to parade for duty at the new station.

The building, which opened in 1881, was on the site of the headquarters of the runners founded by Fielding and his brother Henry, the novelist and magistrate. The runners travelled the country and abroad in pursuit of criminals. But Fielding also created the patrols that paced the streets armed with cutlasses.

The station had a white lamp instead of blue because Queen Victoria was said to have objected to the colour as she left the opera house opposite. It is said that it reminded her of the room in which Prince Albert died. Yesterday the light finally went out.

MP fined £55 after admitting speeding

By TIM JONES

TERESA Gorman, the Tory MP for Billericay who was yesterday fined £55 for driving at 50mph in a 30mph zone, blamed "automatic-pilot" bureaucracy for further offences she had been charged with.

As a pack of reporters crowded into court five of Camberwell magistrates' court in southeast London, Mrs Gorman, 61, who described herself as a "humble backbench MP", was in the Commons preparing to travel to the Conservative party conference at Brighton.

She said: "I pleaded guilty to the offence which I very much regret, but these things happen to ordinary people who happen to lead busy lives. I was summonsed for other offences but that was just a cock-up. It seems that once things are in the system they cannot be changed. They go onto automatic pilot."

The court heard that Mrs Gorman pleaded guilty to speeding in Leigham Vale, Streatham, south London, in her Ford Fiesta on May 27. She had received a £40 fixed penalty fine but had been unable to produce documents because they were in Portugal. Mrs Gorman went to Rochester Row police station to explain the situation. She left on a fact-finding tour of Australia and was "horrified" on her return to learn she was being summonsed for driving without and failing to produce either insurance or a licence.

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Car makers resist price cuts

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE Office of Fair Trading has told motor manufacturers to explain their resistance to lowering car prices, which are claimed to be as much as 30 per cent higher in Britain than on the Continent.

Manufacturers were asked by Sir Bryan Carsberg, director-general of fair trading, to agree to abolish restrictive practices. But Britain's biggest car makers have refused to sign the agreement, putting them on a collision course with Michael Heseltine, president of the Board of Trade, who is growing increasingly concerned that British consumers are being forced to pay more than necessary for their cars.

Mr Heseltine could still force manufacturers to comply with the free-market ini-

tiative if they continue to refuse to comply with recommendations put forward by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The OFT issued a proposed agreement based on the commission's findings to manufacturers but discovered car makers mounting a strong defence of their current dealer system.

Now Sir Bryan has called a series of meetings to ask manufacturers to justify their rejection of the agreement in the light of further evidence that British car prices could be too high.

Mr Heseltine's concern will have increased after reports yesterday that a Nissan car made at Washington, Tyne and Wear, costs £2,840 more than a few hundred yards from the factory gate than it does in

a showroom in Japan. Nissan admitted that a Primera eGT hatchback cost £16,215 at the Reg Vardy dealership at Washington but just £13,375 in Tokyo. The car would have been even cheaper in Tokyo before the plunge of sterling.

Last week, a study by Ludvigsen Associates, motor industry consultants, showed that British prices could be a third higher than in some other European countries and said that inefficiency was the reason.

The report consolidated evidence that prices were loaded against British consumers in spite of the commission enquiry, which found that prices were not generally higher but did discover that dealers were restricted by manufacturer's way they could sell cars.

Eurotunnel chief blames builders for late opening

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

CHANNEL tunnel shuttle services will not begin before December 1993, at least six months later than originally forecast, Sir Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel's chief executive, said yesterday.

The delay, the second since February, when Eurotunnel formally abandoned its scheduled launch date of June 15, 1993, was due to the lack of progress by Transmanche Link, the Anglo-French construction consortium, Sir Alastair said. He accused construction companies of trying to extract additional payments from Eurotunnel by delaying the opening.

Eurotunnel's creditors insisted, however, that the offer of an additional £980 million earlier this year, later increased by one fifth with stocks and bonds, was "too generous". Any outstanding claims will have to be settled by arbitration, which could take months, Sir Alastair said. "I am not going to deny we are disappointed," he added. Transmanche Link declined to respond to Sir Alastair's accusations.

Failure to complete the £9 billion tunnel on time is in addition to delays delivering the full fleet of Eurotunnel shuttle trains, which will not arrive until summer 1994, and the late arrival of the British, French and Belgian inter-capital trains, which are not expected to be in service until a year after the opening.

Unveiling Eurotunnel's bi-annual results, Sir Alastair said that no additional funds would be needed to complete the tunnel, while the opening date could be brought forward if construction were speeded up. The opening could, however, be delayed until early 1994 if construction workers continued to drag their feet.

Sir Alastair's announcement signals the end of the

triumphalism that accompanied the first tunnel breakthrough in December 1990, and the onset of comprehensive confusion for Eurotunnel's potential customers over the nature and effectiveness of the project.

After months of wrangling, Eurotunnel and Transmanche Link have reached a settlement on the final cost of the tunnels and terminals, although no agreement has been reached on the cost of installing the tunnel's fixed equipment. Nonetheless, the gap between them has been narrowed to around £130 million, Sir Alastair said, and both sides are expected to meet again later this month.

While Eurotunnel remains potentially in default of its agreement with the 220-strong syndicate of creditor banks, it has two months to reach a comprehensive settlement with Transmanche Link on a final figure for the cost of the Channel tunnel. If no settlement is found, work must continue on the project, and any outstanding claims will be settled by arbitration, Sir Alastair said.

"It continues to be our view that, subject to the support of our bankers, Eurotunnel has sufficient funds committed to it to complete the project and open for revenue service," Sir Alastair said. But the phased introduction of services made necessary by the late delivery of rolling stock would deprive Eurotunnel of several hundred million pounds in revenue and might force the company to seek additional finance, he said.

Eurotunnel is holding talks with the British and French governments over compensation claims for the cost of delays caused by extra "safety and security" measures.

Eurotunnel results, page 17



Long and the short: windswept models hitch a ride yesterday from Hyde Park to the London Bridal Exhibition at the Cumberland Hotel

Crown prosecutors closer to breaching Bar's monopoly

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

CROWN prosecutors edged within sight of winning the right to take cases in the crown courts yesterday after the Lord Chancellor and the four most senior judges delivered a significant blow to the Bar's monopoly of advocacy rights.

In a joint statement the judges, including the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gossforth, and other High Court heads of division, told the Bar that a time limit was being set on the rule that stops barristers in the Crown Prosecution Service taking cases in the crown court. The unanimous view of the judges, the statement said, was that it would not be appropriate to grant "permanent approval to the rule as it now stands".

They have set a time limit of December 1994, which effectively gives the Bar time to put its house in order and to allow for "full and proper consideration" of the report from the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice. The judges have asked the Bar to redraft the rule to make it clearer and to resubmit it to them.

The judges' keenly awaited statement comes in response to a challenge lodged over the rule by the former Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Allan Green, QC, and the head of the government legal service, Sir James Neave. The last director general of the Office of Fair Trading, Sir Gordon Borrie, said the rule should not be approved by the judges but the Lord Chancellor's own advisory committee, set up to sort out the middle over advocacy rights, said that it should be.

The judges yesterday said that there could be no objections in principle to employed barristers in the CPS and Serious Fraud Office. Their independence was protected by their internal structure and "unity of purpose".

The rule denies to the 6,000 employed barristers who work in commerce, industry and government the same advocacy rights as enjoyed by the 6,000 barristers in independent private practice. The rule's greatest impact is on barristers working in the Crown Prosecution Service, which wants to move into the crown court rather than employ barristers from private practice as agents.

The question of advocacy rights for employed barristers — and therefore the Crown Prosecution Service — is the most contested issue arising from the government's legal reforms. The Bar argues that ending the rule would mean a state prosecution service with a monopoly of prosecution work in the higher courts.

Writer took a heavy toll of EastEnders

A WRITER drafted in to boost *EastEnders* viewing figures and to slim down the cast was dismissed by the BBC when he proposed killing several characters in an IRA bombing, the High Court was told yesterday.

David Yallop was hired in April 1989 by producers of the soap opera in an attempt to oust the rival ITV soap, *Coronation Street*, from the top of the ratings.

Mr Yallop, whose work includes *Minder* scripts and the book *In God's Name*, which claims that John Paul I was assassinated, devised a plot in which an IRA unit hides explosives underneath the community centre in Albert Square. The cache accidentally explodes on general election night.

Andrew Clarke, representing Mr Yallop, said that the producer at the time, Mike Gibbon, had given the writer a brief to slim down the cast.

"Mr Yallop had a walkchart. He put an asterisk beside the names of certain characters. This signified instant death."

"One of the characters to be killed was Diane, the runaway daughter of bed-and-breakfast landlord Frank Butcher, and Wicksy [the barman] was to be stretched away from the scene of the blast after being seriously wounded."

Mr Clarke said that Mr Gibbon praised the scripts for "a great deal of humour, which is what I wanted, and some tragedy". But Peter Creggan, a senior BBC executive, said that he had grave reservations about the storyline. Mr Clarke said:

"Mr Yallop, of south London, was dismissed in November 1989, receiving £7,500 for the 70 days' work he had done. He is suing the BBC for more than £70,000 damages for the unexecuted part of his contract. The hearing continues today."

Cow's death leaves Krishnas in mourning

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

HARE Krishna devotees are mourning the death of their sacred cow Kalindi, who produced 12,000 litres of milk without ever having a calf. Kalindi, revered as a miracle at the sect's UK headquarters near Watford, died last Friday.

The 15-year-old was one of eight cows grazing 17 acres of organically farmed pasture near the Hare Krishna temple at Bhaktivedanta Manor, Letchworth Heath. The Krishna leadership is appealing to the European Court of Human Rights against a council order preventing the manor being used for religious festivals and public worship.

In 1980, an attempt was made to put Kalindi in calf. It failed, but in 1984 the farm manager noticed milk coming from Kalindi's teats. He began to milk her by hand and she gave seven pints a day until March this year.

Bhagavad Dhama, Hare Krishna spokesman, said: "Here is a simple example of how, if you protect and look after a cow, she feels emotionally secure and is more productive."

Hare Krishnas consider the cow to be sacred. In Hindu scripture, Krishna is the protector of cows. No cow is slaughtered, even when it has passed its productive life. Calves are weaned naturally.

Akhanda das, president of the manor, said: "The case of Kalindi is unique. She has lived on our non-violent, organic farm from birth and seems to have responded to that atmosphere in a miraculous way."

Chris Watson, a senior member of the British Veterinary Association, said yesterday: "Some cows will lactate naturally without having calved and goats do it quite commonly." He said that the attempt to put Kalindi in calf could have stimulated the growth of udders. "Lactation could then have been triggered by what she ate."

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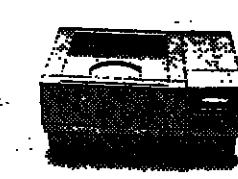
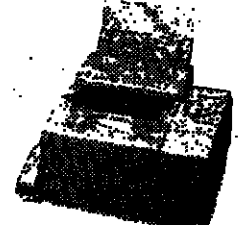
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Oxfam marks 50 years of fighting world hunger

By JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

OXFAM commemorated its fifth birthday yesterday by praising the British public's generosity and criticising the government for proposed cuts of up to £270 million in Third World aid.

The overseas aid agency, which started as a tiny wartime committee to help the civilian population of occupied Greece, now has a turnover of £69 million and supports 2,300 projects in more than 70 countries.

The organisation has a controversial history of helping people in countries considered to be unfriendly and of using graphic publicity campaigns, such as the image of a starving child. In recent years, it has raised millions of pounds to combat misery in countries including Cambodia in 1979 and Ethiopia in 1984. Oxfam has been nominated this year for the Nobel Peace Prize.

But Stewart Wallis, Oxfam's overseas director, said the birthday was to be "marked", rather than celebrated, in view of the amount of suffering and poverty in the world.

Oxfam had a record income of £73.3 million last year despite the recession. Fundraising ventures, such as the Africa in Crisis appeal launched in September, had been particularly successful with income up 24 per cent to £25.2 million. Nearly every high street has an Oxfam Shop today, selling everything from secondhand clothing to furniture, Peruvian art and tropical food hampers. An estimated 26,000 volunteers have helped to keep administrative costs at only 4 per cent of Oxfam's total budget.

Among those representing them yesterday were Ruth Theodore, 9, and her sister Kate, 11, who raised £75 by playing the violin in their local shopping centre near Chandler's Ford, Hampshire.

Oxfam's director, David Bryer, said that threatened cuts of up to 15 per cent in the Overseas Development Agency budget and an insistence on debt repayments would jeopardise Oxfam's long-term relief projects.

"Despite the advances of the last 50 years, we still live in a world where one billion people live in abject poverty. The poor are not just living off the crumbs off the rich man's table, they are being asked to put the crumbs back," he said.

Oxfam began during the second world war as the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief under the leadership of the vicar of the Oxford University Church. Through an appeal, it raised £13,000 for the Greek Red Cross.

Working on the basis of helping suffering people regardless of race, politics or religion, Oxfam became the subject of controversy as it dispatched food parcels to starving people in post-war Germany, despite a government ban on relief and strong anti-German feeling.

In the 1950s, it helped refugees from the Hungarian uprising, the Algerian civil war and the newly-created state of Israel. In the 1960s, it began tackling longer term chronic poverty, and won praise from the Queen for a million pound campaign, the first and biggest of its kind, which won the backing of celebrities including the Beatles and Cilla Black and met its target within three months.

Oxfam has been criticised over the years for alleged political bias, for example in supplying aid to corrupt regimes. The charity confirmed in 1987 that it was supplying aid to former guerrillas in Zimbabwe.

Oxfam has also been obliged more than once to withdraw advertisements that criticised Western governments' aid policies. Mr Bryer is unrepentant. "Without real political commitment to change in rich and poor countries, poverty and suffering will continue to grow."



Sharing the global cake: Oxfam's youngest and oldest supporters, Hollie Lench, 6, and Humphrey Lloyd, 86



Early days: a girl in occupied Greece who received Oxfam food in 1943; right, the first shop in Oxford in 1947

withdraw advertisements that criticised Western governments' aid policies. Mr Bryer is unrepentant. "Without real political commitment to change in rich and poor countries, poverty and suffering will continue to grow."

Critics claimed that its diagnosis of the causes of hunger were faulty and distracted people from the important issues that needed tackling. They also said that its funds were misdirected and badly managed. The charity shocked many people with its hard-hitting marketing techniques, which in the 1940s were considered disreputable. The businessman, Cecil Jackson Cole persuaded it to

spend £5,000 on advertisements in *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph* which raised £25,000 in donations. Maggie Black, author of a history of the organisation, said that the sixties photograph of a starving African child ended the public perception of that continent as an exotic and wealthy region

filled with wealthy chieftains living in harems. Oxfam aims to raise £1.5 million between now and Saturday through door-to-door collections. It also intends to increase by 25 per cent the number of volunteers working in its shops by 1995.

Leading article, page 13

Fischer holds off Spassky onslaught

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

THE fifteenth game of the chess championship in Belgrade ended in yet another draw on Sunday night. The score is now five wins to Bobby Fischer, three to Boris Spassky and seven draws.

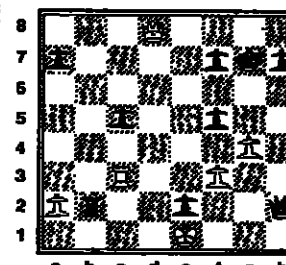
In the opening, Fischer used the Catalan variation for the first time in his career. He built up pressure against a far-flung Spassky pawn but the question was whether that pawn would be a weakness or a thorn in Fischer's flesh.

The answer was not long coming. On the twenty-third move, Spassky launched a cavalier sacrifice of his last remaining bishop. His advance pawn thundered into the vitals of Fischer's camp and his threats became so intense that, three moves later, Fischer had to sacrifice his extra piece to achieve a draw by perpetual check.

In the final position, Spassky's king is so badly exposed that it cannot avoid checks from the white queen. The moves of the game were as follows:

White	Black	White	Black
1 c4	e6	17 Bxe4	dxe4
2 Nf3	Nf6	18 Ne4	e5
3 g3	d5	19 Bg2	Rd8
4 Bg2	Be7	20 Qb3	Rf6
5 0-0	0-0	21 Re3	Bd5
6 d4	Nbd7	22 Rf1	g5
7 Nd2	h5	23 Qc3	Bx3
8 cxd5	exd5	24 exd3	a2
9 Nxe5	Bd7	25 Re1	Rd1
10 Nd3	Nd4	26 Kf2	Ra1
11 Bf1	Nf5	27 Kx1	Qd7
12 Re1	e5	28 Qb3	Qd3
13 dxc5	bxc5	29 Nc3	Qxd2
14 Ng5	Ng5	30 f4	Rd3
15 Bxe5	Nx4	31 Qx5	Rd2
16 Rxe7	Qxe7	32 Qd5+	Kg7
		33 Nf5+	gxf5

Draw agreed



The final position

Fire claims mother and children

A baby and a boy aged two died in hospital yesterday from injuries received during a fire that killed their teenage mother at their Londonderry home on Sunday.

Joanne Duffy, 19, had ignored appeals to flee the house in the Waterside area and dashed into a first-floor bedroom in an unsuccessful attempt to rescue Mark, aged six weeks, and Kevin. Her body was recovered by firemen, who carried the two boys from the house.

Neighbours said that Ms Duffy's 21-year-old male partner had gone downstairs to investigate after she smelt smoke. The staircase caught fire as he ran outside for help. The man's brother, aged 16, escaped through a back window. Forensic science officers examined the debris but have yet to say what caused the fire.

Death award

The family of Liana Evers, 37, who died from a brain haemorrhage 11 days after giving birth to her third child at a Stevenage hospital, was awarded £180,000 in the High Court. The agreed damages were against North Hertfordshire Health Authority, which denied faults in monitoring and treatment.

Pilot named

A pilot killed when his plane crashed shortly after take-off from Sheppsway, Devon, on Sunday was named as Clive Bavington, from Appleby Magna, Leicestershire.

Leaden egg

Showmen at Nottingham Goose Fair, which claims to be the biggest funfair in Europe, blamed the recession and torrential rain for a halving of its usual one million attendance.

Arson attack

Fifty doctors and nurses were cleared from their beds after an arson attack on a residential block of Southampton General Hospital. Police are investigating.

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4th October 1992

THE WAY FORWARD FOR BRITAIN IN EUROPE

Yesterday

In 1949 the Brussels Conference of the European Movement proclaimed the need for a single market upon which to rebuild the strength and prosperity of Europe. It proposed the development of closer political and economic union in the face of the massive military and political threat from the U.S.S.R. and of the predominant influence of the United States in politics and economics. This was the view forward for Europe in 1949. It resulted first in the creation of the Council of Europe and then in the signature of the Treaty of Rome.

Today

The single market has been firmly established amongst the members of the European Community: a splendid achievement. This broad economic base, if accompanied by appropriate government policies, places industry in a favourable position to compete effectively against all comers. But the newly liberated nations of Eastern Europe are still excluded. Their inclusion as free Democracies and equal partners in the new Europe was always envisaged from the beginning of the European Movement. Assistance for them in establishing their new found freedom and in adhering to the Treaty of Rome should be the first priority today.

"Yesterdays view of Tomorrow"

On the contrary, the current proposals for the future of Europe seem to ignore the fundamental changes resulting from the ending of the Cold War and also seem to ignore the need for reform of existing institutions and industry if we are to succeed in reviving the economy of Europe. Instead we are to have a European Bank, a European Currency, a European Defence Policy and a European Foreign Policy. All of this is to be operated by majority voting in Brussels. The European Commission tells us where the Government we elect may be permitted to build a roadway and what kind of apples we may be permitted to buy when shopping.

Some object to this as "Federalism". It is much more than that. It looks beyond Federalism to the seizure of "the Commanding Heights of the Economy" by the Commission. This is the antithesis of a Free Market. These measures foreshadow the ultimate creation of a single centralised European State based on socialist principles.

Even if such a thing would work, what do we need it for now? The U.S.S.R. has disappeared and Communism is dead. The reconstruction of Europe and the relative decline of the economic power of the United States has removed the threat of American dominance. We no longer need to huddle together in a defensive posture against the rest of the world. Yet what Margaret Thatcher aptly called "yesterdays view of tomorrow" still prevails amongst the vested interests in Brussels.

Meanwhile all large political systems composed of diverse ethnic elements, such as the British, French, Dutch, Portuguese and Russian Empires, have collapsed. Even much smaller artificially constructed states such as Yugoslavia, are breaking up with disastrous consequences. Throughout the former U.S.S.R. numerous ethnic communities are rediscovering their individuality as they struggle with the problems created by a central authority which imposed uniformity upon them.

At the very moment when this is happening we in Europe are confronted with an attempt to impose common standards upon our different ethnic communities and diverse economies. From the Arctic Circle to Greece majority voting in Brussels is to take precedence over national preferences, aspirations and economic interests. The logic of events and common sense alike tell us that this is absurd and certain to fail here as it has everywhere else.

Within such a system small nations such as Denmark, and Switzerland should she become a member of the Community, would have no chance. As for the largest states, the tragic history of Europe tells us that if the inevitable conflicts between their interests and aspirations can not be reconciled by negotiation, they certainly can not be contained by a paper treaty. Now that the external threat is removed such a system is bound to break down as its decisions come into conflict with the wishes and aspirations of the electorate and thus with the survival of governments. This process seems to be under way even now before the system is fully established. Maastricht is a formula for failure and perhaps for conflict.

The Way Forward

All sensible people in Britain and elsewhere believe that our country has an important part to play in Europe and wish to work together within a wide range of common interests. It is regrettable that those of us who believe that the Maastricht formula will not work, have been dishonestly portrayed as "anti-European".

On the contrary, the good cause of European Unity has been discredited by the ambitions and interference of the Brussels bureaucracy and by so-called "Europeans" who want to go much too far much too fast. It is a great pity, because the real needs of Europe after the Cold War are few, simple and compatible with British interests. They are:-

1. Further economic development under the Treaty of Rome and the inclusion in the Common Market of all European States.
2. The establishment wherever possible of a European consensus on Finance, Foreign Policy and Defence by means of negotiation in existing institutions. If such a consensus cannot be arrived, at by negotiation it certainly cannot be imposed by majority voting.
3. An agreement in the G.A.T.T. establishing the greatest possible degree of Free Trade throughout the world. Hitherto the protectionist policy of the Commission has sacrificed this in the interests of French farmers and those for whom they vote. It has thus stimulated the formation of protectionist regional groups in other parts of the world.

The three points listed above constitute an ambitious program. It is all that Britain and Europe need. Its achievement is within the bounds of statesmanship and would be a major contribution to order and prosperity in a deeply troubled world. It would give our Politicians plenty of constructive occupation which would be more valuable than any schemes for a European Super State. This should be the view forward in Europe today.

The next step for Britain

When British electors voted in a Referendum to confirm our entry into the Community they were assured from the highest level that they were not committing themselves to membership of a Federal State. What is now proposed goes far beyond anything which they then contemplated. It involves the surrender to the Brussels machine of a further large slice of control over their daily lives, hitherto exercised by the Parliament which they elect. Recent events surrounding the devaluation of Sterling leave no room for doubt as to which will be the dominant influence in the exercise of these powers in Brussels. It will be German, and a strong and stable Germany is essential to the future wellbeing of Europe.

I do not share the view that the issues involved in the Maastricht Treaty are too complex to be understood by British people, or for the matter of that by the Germans. Are we both thought by our Political Parties to be less intelligent than the French or the Danes or the Irish? Or are our Democratic rights in some way inferior to theirs? The case for the Treaty must indeed be a poor one if it cannot be put in terms which our peoples are capable of understanding or if it is such that they are thought likely to reject it.

Before they are committed to so radical a step by Parliament the people of Britain are entitled to express their views in a Referendum upon the issues involved in ratification of the Treaty of Maastricht.

Peter Smithers

Peter Smithers

The writer is not a member of or sponsored by any group or organisation engaged in controversy surrounding European Policy. He was a Conservative Member of Parliament, a Foreign Office Minister and Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

'I have to come down quickly, otherwise everything will go wrong...'

Boeing investigators to focus on loss of starboard engines

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

THE CRASH

EARLY indications are that the El Al cargo jet that crashed into and devastated two blocks of Amsterdam flats on Sunday evening suffered a catastrophic fire and explosion in at least one of its starboard Pratt and Whitney JT9D engines.

What is not yet known is why the two engines broke off, leaving the giant plane with only its two port engines at a critical time just after take-off. But the teams of investigators involved will certainly also look at the near-identical crash of a China Airways Boeing 747 that flew into a mountain near Taipei last December after both starboard engines, also JT9Ds, fell off. The Chinese crash received little publicity at the time.

Last night Boeing admitted: "Both starboard engines were recovered from the sea but no conclusive evidence has been obtained from them. At first sight the two incidents do appear similar, but at the moment there is no factual evidence to link them."

The El Al aircraft was delivered in 1979 and had flown 10,000 flights, logging 45,000 hours without incident. On Sunday, too, as Captain Isaac Fuchs waited for permission to take off for Tel Aviv, there was no indication that anything was wrong with his plane.

At 6.21pm the four engines were revved up to maximum power as the aircraft, labouring slightly under its 114 tons of cargo and up to 145 tons of fuel, began its take-off run.

When it reached 190mph, the pilot lifted off and began his climb over Amsterdam.

The flight engineer recited vital readings from the mass of dials on his console, the two pilots completed their post take-off checks and retracted the undercarriage. As the plane passed through the 1,000ft level, they gradually retracted the huge wing-flaps to gain speed.

Six minutes after take-off the aircraft had reached just 5,000ft when the calm half light of the flight deck erupted into a mass of flashing lights and a klaxon began to wail.

Two general fire warning lights flashed. As the pilots pressed them to cancel their persistent warnings, they looked above their heads to the four fire handles.

One, at least, was lit in bright red. As the captain pulled it sharply downwards to cut off the fuel to the inboard, No. 3, engine, he radioed a distress call to ground controllers and asked for permission to make an emergency landing. From then on he was largely on his own. The controllers suggested approaching from the northeast, but Capt Isaac said he preferred to make a different approach.

Until now the pilots were putting into practice what they had done dozens of times in a simulator. If one engine fails on a fully laden Boeing 747,

there is little difficulty in gaining more height before dumping fuel over the sea, then making a safe landing. But minutes after reporting that there was a fire in No. 3 engine the captain radioed again that No. 4 was on fire.

Suddenly the heavy aircraft was in a desperate position. The flight engineer probably flipped open the cover on the "fuel dump" lever and began the painfully slow job of shedding at least 50 tons. As the aircraft sank gradually towards the ground, its remaining two engines roaring at maximum thrust, the pilot knew he had to find somewhere to land, and quickly.

He may then have made matters even worse. To keep the aircraft flying straight and level against the overwhelming thrust from the port engines, he had to have the rudder hard to the left and the right aileron up to counter any roll. At the same time he had to make a turn to the right to line up with the runway. But, once an aircraft drops its wing and begins to turn, the lift from the wings is reduced, causing it eventually to stall.

To increase his lift, the pilot decided to extend the flaps, only to discover that the catastrophic failure of the engines had somehow damaged the hydraulic controls and they would not work. "We are going down," he yelled as the jet rolled slowly further to the right under the thrust of its port engines. Then, with almost no forward speed left, the giant craft slammed into the buildings.

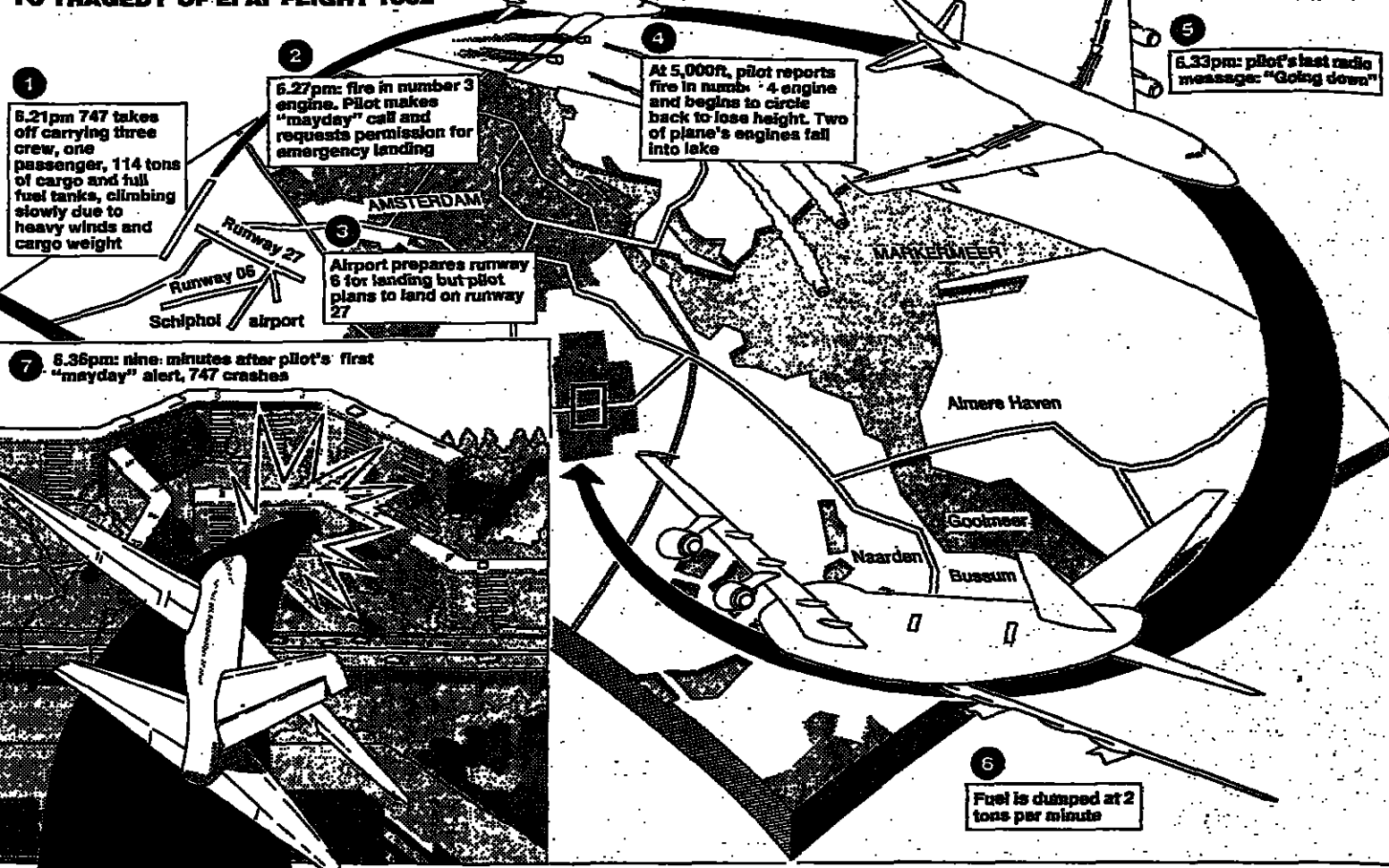
Some experts were last night suggesting that the aircraft may have been struck by a flock of birds which were ingested into both engines, leading eventually to their disintegration. But, since Boeing 747s have survived some of the most powerful impacts and it was too dark for birds to be flying, this seems highly unlikely.

Others think that one engine caught fire, then exploded, shattering the fuel and hydraulic lines and sending debris hurtling into the neighbouring engine. This is a more credible theory, but engines are supposed to contain any damage within their casings.

Now that the second, horrifyingly similar crash, is known about, a new and more sinister reason may have to be investigated. Did both engines tear themselves free because a number of "sacrificial" bolts, deliberately made weaker to ensure that the engines would break away from the wing in the event of an impact, sheared?

Search for clues and photographs, page 1
Janet Daley, page 12

THE 15 MINUTES FROM TAKE-OFF TO TRAGEDY OF EL AL FLIGHT 1862



Veteran captain struggled in vain

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

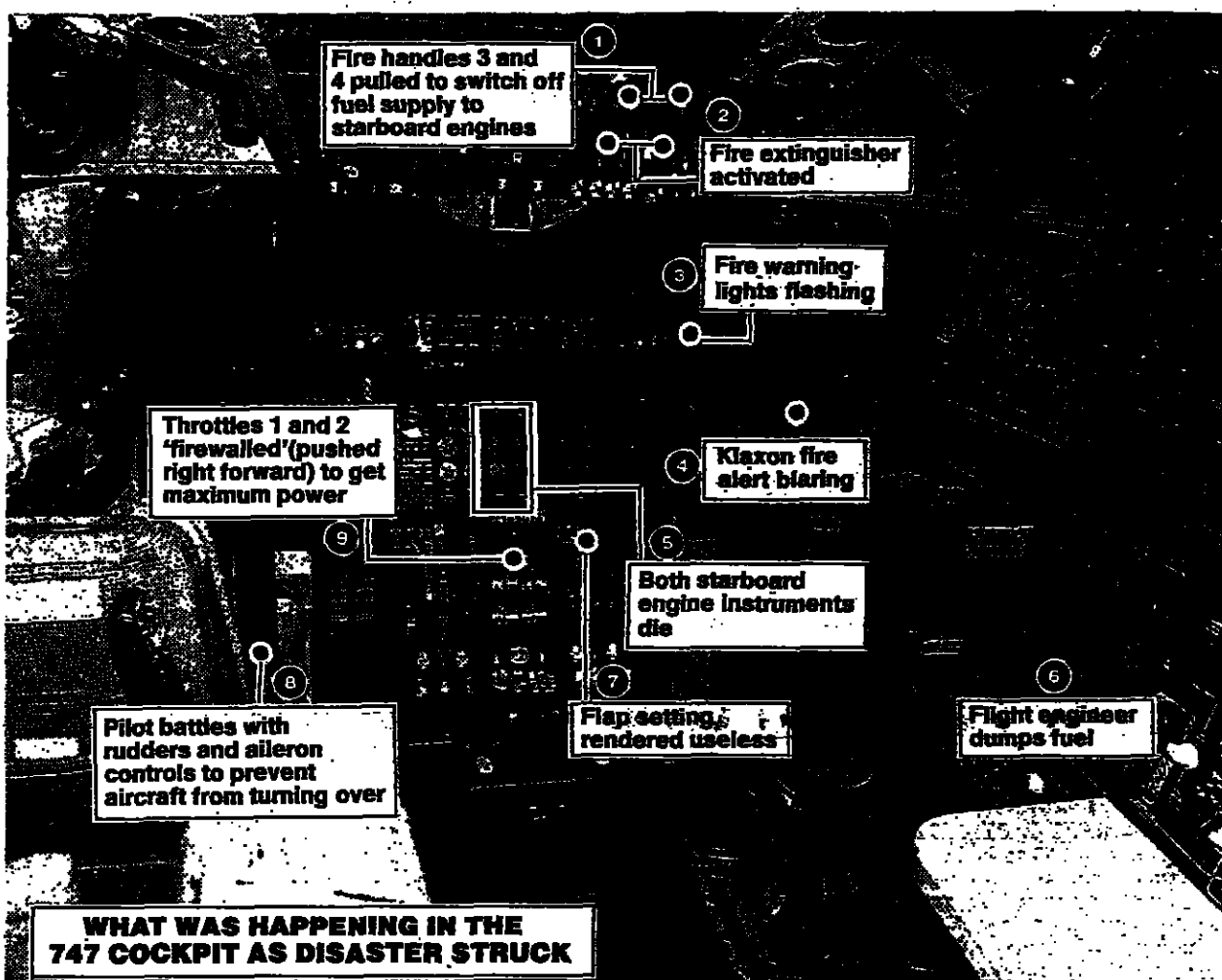
YITZHAK Fuchs, one of El Al's most experienced pilots, struggled for nine minutes to steer his plane to safety before finally reporting that he was "going down".

Mr Fuchs, 59, who accord-

THE PILOT

ing to colleagues was due to retire from the company in three months, was a seasoned aviator respected for his professionalism. He and the other two members of the crew of the Boeing jumbo, Arnon Ohad and Gedalya Sofer, as well as Anat Solomon, the wife of a security employee, were all killed instantly when the aircraft crashed into a residential suburb of Amsterdam as the captain tried to return to Schiphol airport to make an emergency landing.

The pilot, who was married with two children, joined El Al in 1964 and became a captain seven years later. In addition to flying, Mr Fuchs was also a senior instructor and pilot examiner for El Al. His brother, Yehuda, who is also an El Al captain, became something of a national celebrity in 1972 when he piloted a passenger jet to a safe landing in Rome after a bomb concealed in a



Rabin pledges Israeli teams will find cause

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, yesterday vowed that Israel would find the cause of the crash. His statement came as two Israeli teams arrived in The Netherlands to begin their investigations. After sending a message of condolence to Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister, Mr Rabin said: "Every possibility will be examined and checked out to find the real reason that led to this accident and brought about this disaster to Israelis and a large number of Dutch."

Michael Bavi, the Israeli ambassador to The Netherlands, said in a radio interview that the possibility that the Boeing 747 freighter was sabotaged remained remote, although so far no one has advanced a convincing explanation for why two of the aircraft's four Pratt and Whitney engines suddenly caught fire minutes after takeoff.

Israeli aviation officials said that the cargo plane, which went into service in 1979, had a perfect safety record and was the newest jumbo in El Al's fleet. It left New York in perfect condition and was checked again at Schiphol before taking off for Tel Aviv on Sunday night. The cargo was said to consist of standard

goods such as electronic equipment. All the usual security precautions, including surveillance by Dutch airport police, were taken during the stopover in Amsterdam.

Mr Rabin said that the Israeli investigators who arrived in Amsterdam yesterday were in two teams, one from El Al and the other from the transport ministry, and they would work closely with the Dutch government as well as experts from Boeing and Pratt and Whitney. The El Al team is headed by the company's vice president, Amos Amir, while the government investigation will be led by the former Israeli air force chief, Major General Amos Lapidot.

Israeli civil aviation officials predicted that it would take two months for investigators to reach preliminary conclusions about what caused the crash and probably another four months before their final reports were ready.

Investigators are expected to concentrate their efforts on retrieving the two engines which caught fire and the aircraft's two black boxes, one the flight recorder and the other the digital flight data recorder. Of particular interest to investigators will be data on the power that each of the engines was giving in the last moments before the crash, which could reveal what caused the fire that led to the aircraft going out of control.

Schiphol is Europe's fourth busiest cargo airport, handling nearly 630,000 tonnes in 1991. It is the fifth busiest in Europe for passenger traffic, handling 16.5 million passengers last year. The Netherlands, eager to see development as Europe's transport hub, is backing plans to expand the airport and a new terminal building is due to open next year.



Rabin: condolence message to Lubbers

Queen and Pope send condolences

Messages of sympathy have poured in from all over the world for relatives of victims of Sunday's El Al air disaster

THE Queen sent a message yesterday to Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands expressing shock at the Sunday's air disaster, Buckingham Palace said. The Queen and Prince Philip also sent their "deepest sympathy" to families of the victims of the crash, the palace said.

John Major, the prime minister, has also written to his Dutch and Israeli counterparts expressing his "horror" at the crash. Downing Street said: "The hearts of all of us here go out to those who have suffered or have lost family and friends in the tragedy. You are in the thoughts and prayers of all of us." Mr Major wrote in a letter to Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister.

In his letter to Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, he said: "May I send you my deepest sympathy on last night's tragic air crash. I can imagine the shock that it has caused in Israel. I hope you will pass on my condolences to

the families of the crew and the passenger who died."

President Mubarak of Egypt telephoned Mr Rabin to express his sympathy. He asked him to convey his condolences "to the bereaved families, to El Al and to the people of Israel".

Pope John Paul was among those who sent a message of sympathy to families of the bereaved. In a letter to Bishop H.J.A. Bomers of Haarlem, the Vatican said: "News of the crash of the El Al cargo plane roused deep emotions in the Pope's heart."

In a statement issued during a meeting in Luxembourg, European Community foreign ministers expressed shock at the scale of the disaster. "Ministers ... express their profound sense of

radio exploded on board as his plane cruised over the Mediterranean.

What is troubling Israeli aviation experts is why an experienced pilot like Mr Fuchs seemed to lose control of his aircraft when two of his four engines still appeared to be functioning normally. He should have had enough power

to turn the aircraft round and make a successful emergency landing. "Our pilots and crews are trained continuously to deal with crises like this," said Oded Abernethy, an El Al pilot who founded and headed the airline's flight safety division. "They are trained intensively every six months and then checked and

examined by the government on their proficiency in dealing with such emergencies." He said that on previous occasions aircraft had been known to fly with only two engines working on one side, but that in the case of the Amsterdam crash the situation was complicated because the jumbo had just taken off.

"The take-off phase is one of the most critical, if not the most critical, phase of the aircraft's flight where the airplane does not have very high speed or altitude yet."

"Engine failure is much more critical if it occurs at this stage than, say, at 35,000ft, when the aircraft is at cruising speed," he said.

Dutch disaster sets ground toll record

SUNDAY'S crash was the worst air disaster involving non-passenger victims.

The worst disaster involving aircraft on the ground was when two Boeing 747s collided on the runway in the Canary Islands in 1977, killing a total of 583. Other crashes include: July 20, 1992: At least 40 people, including about 30 residents, died when a cargo plane crashed in Tbilisi, Georgia.

April 16, 1992: 55 people were killed when a Kenyan air force plane crashed into a block of flats in Nairobi; 49 were killed on the plane and six in the flats.

October 5, 1991: 136 were killed when an Indonesian air force Hercules C130 transport crashed in Jakarta. The dead included one on the ground.

September 3, 1989: A Cuban Airlines IL62M carrying 126 people on a flight from Havana to Milan, crashed into a village shortly after takeoff. All on board, plus 14 people on the ground, were killed.

July 27, 1989: A Korean Airlines DC10 crashed short of Tripoli airport killing 74 on the plane and seven on the ground.

December 21, 1988: A Pan Am Boeing 747 was blown up over Lockerbie, southern Scotland, killing 259 passengers and crew and 11 people on the ground.

August 16, 1987: A Northwest Airlines MD80 crashed

near Detroit, killing 153 on board and three on the ground.

August 31, 1986: An Aero-Mexico DC9 and a Piper Archer collided near Los Angeles airport; 85 killed, including 18 on the ground. September 18, 1984: Aero-servicios Ecuatorianos DC8 crashed into houses after taking off from Quito airport, killing the four crew and 49 on the ground.

July 9, 1982: A Pan Am Boeing 727 crashed into houses shortly after taking off from New Orleans; 153 people died, including several on the ground.

May 25, 1979: An American Airlines DC10 crashed after takeoff from Chicago. All 273 aboard and two men on the ground were killed.

September 25, 1978: A Boeing 727 of Pacific Southwest Airlines and a private Cessna collided over San Diego. Debris fell on a residential area; 151 people were killed, including 14 on the ground.

October 13, 1976: A Boeing 707 cargo plane on charter to a Bolivian company, lost an engine after takeoff from Santa Cruz and ploughed into the city's main street. The crew of three were killed with more than 100 on the ground.

March 16, 1969: More than 150 killed when a Venezuelan DC9 crashed on a village soon after takeoff with the loss of all on board and many on the ground.

City's contingency planning pays off

By Mark Fuller

AFTER the initial shock of the Amsterdam air disaster on Sunday, the capital's rescue operation moved extremely smoothly, largely thanks to the city's plan for responding to disasters.

Since 1985, every city in The Netherlands has had such a contingency plan, involving step-by-step instructions for all emergency services. From a crisis centre in

Amsterdam city hall, the mayor and emergency services chiefs co-ordinated the rescue effort. "Everyone knows where they have to go and what they have to do," said a spokesman for the city council.

Emergency services were at the scene of the accident within three minutes of the crash. Hospitals had hundreds of beds ready for the wounded, and the police sealed off the area from thousands of sightseers. An

emergency shelter was set up in the local sports centre. A mortuary was established in a building at Schiphol airport. The national television channels were taken over by the mayor of Amsterdam, Ed van Thijn. Broadcasting was interrupted for up to eight minutes while information and emergency telephone numbers were given to the public.

The contingency plans were drawn up under the supervision of national government.

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...Then suburb's fate is sealed as pilot says: 'We are coming down'

Immigrant suburb stunned by catastrophe from the sky

FROM MARK FULLER AND LIN JENKINS IN AMSTERDAM

AFTERMATH

SUNDAY night's air disaster could hardly have hit a poorer or more deprived Amsterdam community. Many of the inhabitants of the area devastated by the crash of the El Al Boeing 747 cargo jet are immigrants, as were many of those who died. A gaping charred hole is all that remains of the 80 or so flats where they had lived.

Dawn yesterday served only to confirm the enormity of the task facing the disaster teams in dismantling the tangle of concrete and twisted metal to free the bodies of the victims. The two ten-storey blocks of flats simply collapsed when the plane ploughed into them. That none of the adjacent blocks on the estate had been touched, or even had windows broken, bore out witness accounts that the plane simply fell from the sky, all forward propulsion gone.

Dejected and stunned local residents looked on as emergency teams sifted through the rubble. Onlookers were kept behind metal barriers and a further cordon of police and dogs dealt severely with those who breached it.

Most people who tried to get through were out to make a political point, claiming that the police were using brutal means to keep people away. Nobody who had lived in the flats joined the protest. They had no wish to return to the unsuitable tomb of so many of those they knew. But reports said that, elsewhere on the estate, looters had gained access to two shopping centres. A Dutch radio reporter said he had seen looters running through nearby evacuated flats.

Residents waiting at the cordon anxiously asked journalists for news, although it was clear there was little hope of any survivors being found among the aircraft debris, broken furniture and belongings which littered the scene. The crash left few pieces of aircraft larger than a suitcase. An aircraft wheel, the tyre still intact, rested under a tree, one of the very few recognisable pieces.

Five rolls of crimson fabric, part of the plane's cargo, lay

upwind of the flames where they were flung on impact, a vivid contrast to the grim scene. Four odd shoes thrown clear and a pile of singed books, pages blown open by the stiff wind, were rare reminders of the lives that ended in the crash or the resulting fire. In an eighth-floor flat in the Kruitberg block a gaping hole revealed the kitchen, but washing still hung on the line on the balcony.

The grim task of the rescue teams is expected to take days. They work under constant threat from the unstable buildings. Water was pumped from the ornamental moat in the centre of the estate throughout the day to damp down the remaining small fires fanned by the wind. The main blaze of the night, which had been encouraged by a broken gas main, had subsided.

Numbed with grief, an African immigrant woman wondered aimlessly around the parkland near the scene. "My two sisters and their two children lived in the block that was worst hit. I just don't know what to do now. I have visited the hospital and emergency shelters. But they aren't there. It's hopeless," she said.

Marieke Akerboom, a resident, said: "I comforted a

Surinamese woman whose son had gone out shortly before the crash to fetch a bicycle from a friend. That friend lived in one of the flats that had been hit. She had no idea where her little son was or if he was alive or dead." Many other residents were at home at the time of the crash, having their evening meal or watching television.

A young couple from Surinam, a former Dutch colony, said they were too exhausted to feel anything. They had waited all night for news of their grandparents. Roman Satie, an electrical engineer, said: "They are over 70 years old. They can't even walk properly. We were coming to visit them when it happened. They would have been watching television. How can this happen?"

Amid the sorrow was much anger. Wouter Wandel, an accountant who has lived in the area for 20 years, said: "There are lakes and open ground near here. Why did they not ditch the plane there? It's terrible and should not have happened. The heart has been torn out of this community. We always had a negative image because of the area's crime and drugs problems. And now this."

The sprawling estate, home to almost 90,000 people, was built in the 1960s to solve

Amsterdam's acute housing shortage. But it quickly degenerated into a slum, a ghetto for the underprivileged black immigrants from Surinam, Africa and the Dutch Antilles. Many illegal immigrants live there, making it difficult for the authorities to estimate precisely how many people were housed in the flats that were hit.

"It's an architect's dream which has turned into a nightmare," Mr Wandel said. "It's difficult enough to get in and out of the buildings in normal circumstances. What it must have been like last night doesn't bear thinking about."

The large three or four-room flats have been neglected by the authorities. Access to the nine-storey buildings is through a warren of dark corridors that many residents dare not walk alone. Lifts and lighting often do not work, and in recent years flats have become the haunt of hard drug users and dealers.

After Queen Beatrix and Ruud Lubbers, the prime minister, visited the scene yesterday, a Surinamese businessman said: "A lot of people have become isolated here. But there is still a community. It's taken a disaster to bring the queen and the prime minister here. We needed help and attention earlier."

But a weeping Queen Beatrix, her face buried in her hands, symbolised the grief felt by the wider Dutch community. Cabinet ministers and local government officials were clearly shocked as they spoke to the press about the worst air disaster in Dutch history. The response from the public has been overwhelming, with emergency services and hospitals receiving offers of help from thousands of volunteers.

Amsterdam itself was in mourning yesterday. The normally bustling and boisterous city was unusually quiet, the people dejected. A taxi driver said: "When a thing like this happens far from your home you feel sorrow for those involved. When it happens in your own city you can't feel anything anymore. You become numb."



Estate of death: the arrow shows the point of impact in the Amsterdam suburb of Bijlmermeer



Monumental task: rescue workers dwarfed by the rubble still concealing an unknown number of bodies

How London would cope with crash

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

AN AIRCRAFT crashing on the built-up approaches to Heathrow airport is the disaster feared by the aviation industry and emergency planners in Greater London.

Yesterday the disaster at Amsterdam reignited the argument over the existing arrangements for dealing with big catastrophes in the capital with criticism by some officials that they would produce muddle and chaos. There are almost 200,000 people living in constituencies adjacent to the west, south and north of the airport, although unlike Amsterdam most live in suburban streets rather than high-rise blocks.

Geoffrey Brewer, the Conservative group leader on the London Fire and Civil Defence authority, said: "Co-ordination is sadly lacking. At the moment some London boroughs have their emergency plans, but if an aircraft comes down over the capital as it lands it will affect a huge area, not just one borough."

In spite of a series of disasters ranging from Lockerbie to the British Midland 737 M1 crash, the Home Office has rejected the suggestion of creating a national rescue squad, placing prime responsibility for dealing with disaster at a local level.

The initial response to an air disaster on the approaches to Heathrow airport would come from the capital's emergency services, with the police co-ordinating the actions of the fire and ambulance services. They would be able to call on military assistance including the use of RAF helicopters to ferry people to landing sites from where they could be transferred to hospital.

A six-strong emergency contingency planning unit based at New Scotland Yard has responsibility for preparing contingency plans to deal with potential disasters in the capital. The unit carries out desktop exercises, as well as exercises that have included simulated accidents at RAF Northolt and crashes on the London Underground.

In an attempt to overcome criticism that there was not enough co-ordination involving organisations outside the emergency services, the police have set up a London emergency liaison panel, drawing together representatives from local authorities, the voluntary and emergency services and the utilities. Chief Inspector Tom Pine, head of the unit, said yesterday: "It is cumbersome because there are 32 boroughs, but the aim is to try to get a better approach to emergency planning. We would cope because that is what you do after a disaster, but a Lockerbie type incident over London would be like a footprint from Southend to Heathrow."

A "major incident procedure" has been prepared outlining the role to be played by squads from London's fire brigade, ambulance and police as well as the role to be played by local authorities. The local authorities have no duty to carry out emergency planning, though in many cases they have drawn up contingency proposals to deal with disaster and around

Heathrow. The boroughs of Hillingdon, Spelthorne and Hounslow co-ordinate their activities. In the case of a disaster they can call on support from the boroughs of Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Harrow and Kensington and Chelsea.

John Holloway, chief emergency planning officer of the London Fire and Civil Defence authority, has in the past criticised the absence of a single authority in the capital charged with co-ordinating the response to a big disaster. He said yesterday: "I do remain concerned at the ability of local authorities to co-ordinate their activities both among themselves and in the eventuality of needing to co-ordinate recovery operations."

A Home Office document, *Dealing with Disaster*, pub-

lished in August, said that after a widespread disaster, self help was likely to be the first response.

Within the airport perimeter, Heathrow airport has its own contingency plans to deal with disaster, while British Airways has an underground control room from which two bodies would operate for the duration of an emergency. One group, consisting of 12 members of BA staff, has responsibility for managing the company's response to any disaster or emergency; the other, the emergency passengers incident centre, looks after the passenger side of a disaster. It has two carousels of telephones staffed with employees specially trained in handling calls from people with anxious friends and relatives.

Airport security rules 'broken'

By KATE ALDERSON

AN AIRLINE passenger accused Lufthansa airlines of lax security after the airline allowed her luggage to be flown to Heathrow without her while she was waiting in Frankfurt airport to fly home to London.

Under the Convention on International Civil Aviation, passengers and their luggage must not be separated for security reasons, a regulation which came under the spotlight after the Lockerbie air disaster in 1988. It is believed that the bomb in the Lockerbie incident was in unaccompanied luggage loaded at Frankfurt airport. In the resulting explosion and crash, 270 people died.

Lufthansa airlines admitted yesterday that the passenger, Louise Allen-Jones, had been separated from her luggage and that she arrived at Heathrow airport five hours after her suitcase. The airline has not been able to explain why this happened. A spokeswoman said yesterday that there must be a reason for the incident. "When we know a passenger, or one of our passengers knows the missing person, then we will usually fly. It appeared that three other people on the flight knew Ms Allen-Jones," she said.

"Until I've spoken to the staff who handled the flight



Flashback: the scene of the Lockerbie disaster

and luggage that day, I can't be sure of why the luggage was separated, but it does seem that the captain made a decision to fly. If he had not, then passengers would have been further delayed, the plane would have missed its slot in Heathrow and a lot of passengers would have been inconvenienced. It would have taken about two to three hours to take all the luggage off the plane and check it."

Ms Allen-Jones, from south London, said that she was supposed to board flight LH4088K at 13.30 on the Sunday afternoon. However, she missed the flight, which was delayed by 90 minutes, after the airport failed to announce the rescheduled flight time.

The Lufthansa steward told me that I had missed my flight," she said. "He told me

that the next flight at 17.30 was full. But after I told him that my luggage was on the plane that I'd missed, he told me that he could find me a seat on the 17.30 flight."

Tony Mulliken, director of Midas Public Relations and an old friend of Ms Allen-Jones, was on the 13.30 flight that Ms Allen-Jones missed. "Our plane was running late, and so were a lot of other flights, the airport seemed to be in chaos. I, and two other colleagues, were the last to board the plane, and as we did so I made it clear that Ms Allen-Jones was not on the plane." Mr Mulliken said that they were simply hurried onto the plane, and within minutes of being seated, the plane took off.

Letters, page 13

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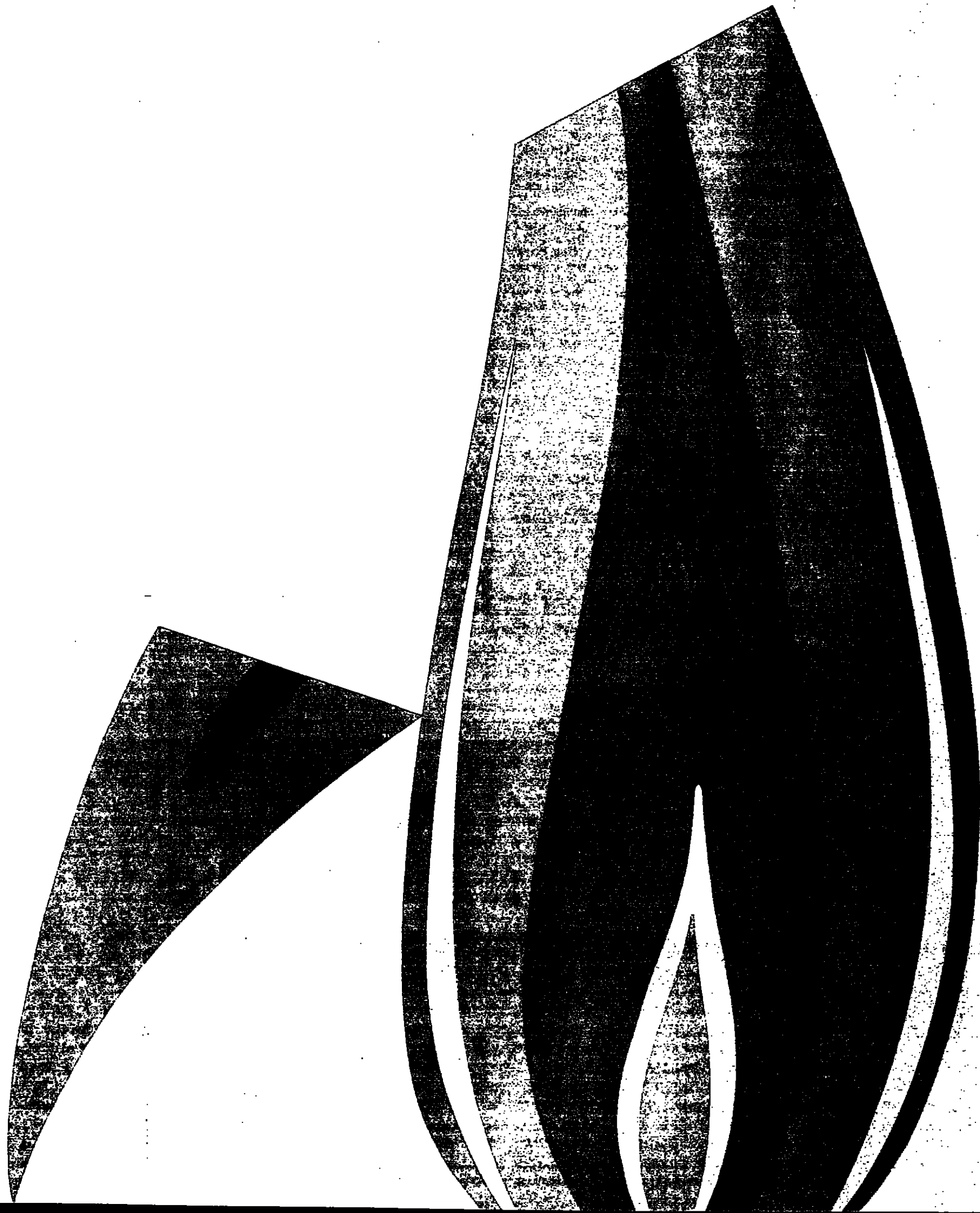
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Russian army
blamed for
inflaming
Georgia war

UNIT PRICE INDIVIDUAL

Russian army blamed for inflaming Georgia war

BY BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

EDUARD Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, yesterday blamed Russian forces for the downing of a helicopter as his troops battled to reverse the recent advances of separatist Muslim rebels in the north-west of his republic.

In some of the harshest language ever addressed to Moscow by the former Soviet foreign minister, he said "reactionary forces" in the Russian parliament and military were egging on the rebellion by the Abkhazian minority.

"A wide-ranging conspiracy against Georgia is being played out," Mr. Shevardnadze, who hopes to gain legitimacy as Georgia's leader in national elections to be held on Sunday, declared in a radio broadcast. "The enemies of Georgia have brought into play their most powerful reserves, the reactionary circles of Russia."

Russia's defence ministry denied responsibility and blamed Abkhaz separatists for downing the Mi24 helicopter with a ground-to-air missile, Tass news agency said. The

by seizing the resort town of Gagra and squeezing part of the Georgian army into a tiny pocket of land just south of the Russian border.

Pyotr Chikvaizhe, the Georgian foreign minister, said the attack on Gagra was carried out with large battle tanks and other modern armour that the Abkhazians could have acquired only from the Russian arsenal. He accused the fighters who seized Gagra of committing atrocities, including the rape, torture and murder of civilians. The Abkhazians countered that many of their people had died in Georgian air raids.

Jaba Ioseliani, the professor-turned-warlord who is Mr. Shevardnadze's deputy, said Georgia would soon start using force to eject Russian troops from its soil unless Moscow abided by last month's peace agreement.

The Georgians strongly suspect the Russian Black Sea Fleet of shipping armour to the Abkhazian strongholds on the coast, a claim which the Moscow Defence Ministry has denied. Whatever the truth, the cause of the Abkhazians, an ancient community numbering little more than 80,000, is receiving clear moral backing from Russian conservatives, who accused Mr. Yeltsin of condoning appalling misdeeds by Georgian soldiers.

The Moscow hardliners and the small Muslim nations of southern Russia, whose representatives demanded much greater regional independence at a congress during the weekend, are improbable allies.

But in the meantime they are making common cause against their common enemies: the reformist and broadly pro-Western leaders of Russia and Georgia.



Banging the peace drum: Buddhist members of a group of activists preaching their message in a nearly empty market in Sarajevo yesterday

Warship talks clear way to end Dubrovnik siege

BY GEORGE BROCK IN LUXEMBOURG
TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SERB and Croat negotiators have agreed a deal which may relieve the Adriatic port of Dubrovnik, which has been severely damaged by a siege lasting several months.

Talks on board a Royal Navy warship, HMS *Avenger*, which were chaired by the European Community and United Nations negotiators, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, have cleared the way for UN troops to occupy the Prevlaka peninsula, which overlooks Dubrovnik.

The agreement was reported to EC foreign ministers yesterday by Mr Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary. The Serbs have been reluctant to abandon the vantage point because of the risk that their Croat opponents might seize it to attack the Serbian naval base of Kotor.

A week of talks on board the warship hammered out terms on which the UN's Balkan force, UN Protection Force, could take over the small area

from which Serbian guns have pounded the town. "The key test, as always, is whether the two sides will do what they have now said that they will do," said one British official. "If they do the siege of Dubrovnik will be lifted." A UN security council resolution allowing UN troops to operate on the peninsula is due to be debated in New York during the next 48 hours.

In Sarajevo, buildings blazed yesterday as Bosnian Serb leaders issued dire threats to pull out of peace talks on the republic's future. The violent upsurge in fighting around the city came on third day of the resumed international humanitarian airbridge. Three flights landed yesterday morning but others were cancelled due to poor weather.

In Geneva, Sir Donald Acheson, the World Health Organisation's special envoy to former Yugoslavia, reiterated the warnings from other inter-



national agencies that unless proper supplies to Sarajevo were resumed starvation was barely a month away. "At this rate of food supply, children and adults will enter a state of profound semi-starvation, with children dying within three to four weeks."

Elsewhere in Bosnia fighting continued unabated especially along the Drina valley

where previously secure Serb positions are coming under pressure from a Bosnian offensive. The Belgrade news agency, Tanjug, alleged that the Bosnian side were now using heavy weaponry imported from Turkey in breach of the UN arms embargo on former Yugoslavia.

In a letter to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secre-

tary-general, Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader said that his side would withdraw from internationally sponsored peace talks if the UN imposed a "no fly zone" over the republic. He claimed that it would deprive the Serbs of a strategic advantage over their enemies and "leave wounded Serbs stranded and many civilians without food and supply lines".

Mr Vance said of Dr Karadzic's statement: "It's probably more than a threat. However, I think that Karadzic should think very very carefully before he goes forward."

The "no fly zone" has been on the international agenda for more than a month but bickering among UN Security Council members has meant that no resolution has yet been passed. The crux of the matter is whether the UN member states are prepared to shoot down violators. If they are, a major step towards active foreign military involvement in former Yugoslavia will have been made.

Bosnian elite 'killed first'

FROM ADAM LEBOR
IN ZAGREB

THE claim that Bosnian doctors, lawyers, teachers and anyone of community stature who could organise opposition has been killed in Serb-run detention camps, is the latest weapon in the propaganda war.

Relief officials and aid workers, still negotiating the release of about 8,000 inmates in Serb detention camps, are reluctant to go on the record about these latest atrocities.

All known Serb detention camps in northern Bosnia are inspected by the Red Cross and nobody wants to jeopardise the fragile accord with Serb authorities. But relief workers say there is a trend in the type of refugee arriving in Croatia.

"Not many educated people are coming through, but that's because they could have left earlier," one aid official said. "But we have had several reports that political leaders were among the first to be arrested. In any war these kind of people are rounded up at the beginning, but that doesn't mean they have been killed."

But among the 1,500 odd former inmates of Serb detention camps in a former army barracks in Karlovac, there were no doubts that members of Bosnian intelligentsia were chosen to be killed. Many were executed in Omarska, one of the most notorious camps. Karlovac inmates said.

Doctors, lawyers, even a veterinary surgeon were called out to be killed, one man said. The names were called out about 10pm, he said, and the men were taken away and never seen again.

There is no concrete evidence that the Serbs are carrying out a policy of killing Bosnia's potential leaders. Amnesty International said: "We believe that doctors and lawyers have been singled out for arrest but it's unclear if they have been singled out for execution."



Abkhazians confirmed that a Georgian helicopter had been shot down by a heat-seeking missile yesterday but insisted that they, and not the Russian army, had fired it.

Abkhazian forces, backed by thousands of fellow Muslims from southern Russia, scored a spectacular success last week

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Dominican poor bear cross of Columbus extravaganza



Columbus: asked to be buried on the island

SITTING at a table at Drake's Bar, a popular watering hole in the colonial part of Santo Domingo, the historian Bernardo Vega stares up at a night sky illuminated by a giant cross of light projected on to the cloud cover.

A mile away, technicians are experimenting with 149 powerful beams that make up the huge Columbus Lighthouse that will be inaugurated today when the bones of the Spanish explorer are to be transferred to their new resting place inside the half-mile-long concrete structure.

"We all have a cross to bear and that is ours," Señor Vega says with a grimace. He has to raise his voice to be heard over the sound of portable generators providing electricity during one of the city's frequent power blackouts. "You see what I mean," he laments.

A lighthouse to be inaugurated today to mark "the Admiral's" arrival in the Americas has been criticised, writes David Adams from Santo Domingo

While the lights of the city flicker, the lighthouse burns brightly with the estimated power of 30 billion candles.

The country is divided over this unusual sloping structure, ten storeys high and shaped as a receding cross. Designed in the 1930s by J.L. Cleave, a young British architect, the lighthouse is touted by the government as the eighth wonder of the world. Opponents variously describe its architectural style as "fascist", "Mussolini-esque", or a "pharaonic" monument to excess in a country where half the people live below the

poverty line, often without running water or electricity.

Everyone, even supporters of the government, agrees that the lighthouse is ugly. The government has gone to great lengths to justify the project which is estimated to have cost at least \$70 million (\$41 million), although the amount spent is a state secret. Last week, the main government newspaper showed an original approach to aesthetics, with an editorial arguing the uglier the better. "We should hope that it is recognised as a victory of the horrible. That is how we will

achieve the admiration of the world," the newspaper said.

Some say it looks more like a tomb than a lighthouse, designed rather to house the bones of Columbus than to assist shipping. One person who will be unable to see the lights go on is the autocratic President Balaguer, 86, a blind poet and an autocrat who has dominated the country's politics since the assassination of his mentor, the dictator Rafael Trujillo, in 1961.

Columbus described what is now the Dominican Republic as "the land I loved most" and asked that he should be buried here. But he seems to have few admirers left outside the country's wealthy, white elite.

Columbus is blamed for the elimination of the indigenous Taino Indian population. And many superstitious Dominicans refuse to mention his name, choosing instead to refer to "the Admiral". The name Columbus is regarded as *fuera* — local slang for "fined". The fix appears to have returned to haunt government preparations for what had been intended as a vast celebration as part of the 500th anniversary of Columbus's voyages of discovery and of the Roman Catholic Church's missionary effort in the Americas.

Foreign heads of state have discreetly given their excuses. Plans for a television extravaganza with Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra and Julio Iglesias have been cancelled. Two anti-government protesters have died in street clashes with the police.

Then last month the Pope announced that he would not after all be able to preside over the inauguration ceremony. Instead, he will arrive later in the week to attend the Latin American bishops' conference. Workmen are completing a huge elevated stage at the foot of the lighthouse where the Pope will say Mass next Sunday.

The *fuera* seems to have struck again on Sunday. Señor Balaguer's sister, Emma, 73, died of a heart attack a few hours after visiting the lighthouse.

In shanty towns on the eastern edge of the city, thousands of homes have been torn down to make way for the lighthouse and surrounding gardens. A two-mile-long stone wall, ten-foot high, with metal spikes in the shape of crosses has been built to enclose the area.

Local people have protested at the humiliation of having

their modest homes hidden from tourists and visiting dignitaries. The government describes the wall as "ornamental", but local people call it "the wall of shame".

In the suburb of Maqueria — a maze of unpaved, muddy streets, with piles of rubbish and puddles of stagnant water — the parish priest, a Franciscan, Father Samuel Arana, is one of the few voices defending evicted families, helping them to understand their right to claim the meagre government compensation.

Waving in the direction of the lighthouse, he says: "This has nothing to do with Christianity and evangelism; it is a manipulation of religion."

However, the cardinal of Santo Domingo, who heads the 500th anniversary commission, recently described the protesters as "liars", "vagrants" and "loud mouths".

Republicans target soft Clinton support in 'smear campaign'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON



US ELECTION

THE Bush campaign, with more than \$40 million (\$23 million) still to spend before election day, has launched a week-long barrage of advertisements attacking Bill Clinton in an attempt to encourage doubts in his softer supporters before the first presidential debate next Sunday.

With the election entering its most critical period, the president's aides privately acknowledge that it is now only "possible", not "probable", that Mr Bush will regain the White House on November 3, and that his chances will be almost nil if he fails to win over some of Mr Clinton's supporters during the nine-day burst of three debates.

A Gallup poll yesterday showed Mr Clinton leading Mr Bush by 47 per cent to 35, with Ross Perot on 10. That represented a slight narrowing of the gap, but Republican strategists admit that unless Mr Bush can draw within a few points of Mr Clinton nationally, their state-by-state scenarios for cobbling together an electoral college majority are almost irrelevant.

Other new polls showed Mr Bush trailing in the battleground states of Michigan, Illinois and Ohio by 13, 20 and seven points respectively. Mr Clinton underscored the president's problems yesterday by campaigning all-out in Florida, America's fourth-largest state and one Michael Dukakis quickly wrote off as hopeless in 1988.

The Republican advertisements portray Mr Clinton as dishonest, incapable of taking tough stands, and secretly

planning to raise taxes on all but those on the lowest incomes. Mr Bush has also escalated his own attacks on Mr Clinton, and on Sunday night sought to turn the tables on his opponent by claiming he had encouraged pre-war American grain sales to Iraq.

Mr Clinton and Al Gore, his running mate, have repeatedly accused Mr Bush of appeasing President Saddam Hussein. But the president claimed the Arkansas governor had himself promoted grain sales at a meeting with Nizar Hamdoun, the Iraqi ambassador to Washington, in 1986.

Mr Clinton retorted that Mr Bush had to be "desperate" to equate a "five-minute courtesy call" the ambassador made during a visit to Little Rock, Arkansas, with the huge support the Reagan and Bush administrations had given Saddam throughout the 1980s and early 1990s.

Two other more sinister charges against Mr Clinton also surfaced mysteriously over the weekend. The conservative *Washington Times* yesterday reported that Mr

Clinton, as an Oxford student and vociferous opponent of the Vietnam war, visited Moscow for a week in the winter of 1969 and could well have been a recruitment target for Soviet intelligence officials. A Clinton spokeswoman insisted he had visited Moscow as part of a month-long European vacation and called the wider insinuations a "smear campaign, pure and simple".

It also emerged that American news organisations have been investigating an unsubstantiated rumour that Mr Clinton had considered renouncing his American citizenship in favour of a British passport in 1969 to avoid the draft, a suggestion denied by the Clinton camp. The investigations became public knowledge when State Department officials reportedly found pages had been torn out of Mr Clinton's passport file.

Newsweek magazine reported yesterday that the FBI had been called in. It speculated that either a Clinton sympathiser within the department had destroyed embarrassing evidence or a Bush supporter had tried to make it look that way.

Mr Perot, who yesterday cut short a television interview that focused on his personality rather than "things that concern the American people", opens his abbreviated campaign tonight with a 30-minute commercial on America's economic problems. Having announced his re-entry into the presidential race last Thursday, the Texan billionaire baffled the political world by staying out of public view over the weekend instead of exploiting the media attention his announcement generated. In the event, the defection to the Clinton camp of John White, formerly his chief economic adviser, received more coverage.

Mr Clinton, meanwhile, sought to blunt damaging Republican allegations that he is a closet protectionist in lock to the unions by announcing his support for the North American Free Trade Agreement. The unions, strong in key industrial Midwest states such as Michigan and Ohio, say the trade deal would mean millions of American jobs going to Mexico. Mr Clinton said he would not seek to renegotiate the treaty, but would want "supplemental agreements" and new congressional measures to protect or restrain American workers.

Pundits play the numbers game

US analysts are even turning to children to predict the poll outcome, writes Jamie Dettmer

WITH only a month to go before polling day, the television pundits and newspaper columnists are scrambling to get any advantage they can in predicting the outcome of the presidential election.

While Bill Clinton has a healthy lead in the opinion polls over President Bush, no one wants to repeat the 1948 performance of the *Chicago Tribune* which, on the morning after polling day, initially announced a victory for Thomas Dewey, the New York governor. *Tribune* journalists still squirm at the thought of Harry Truman holding up the front page to photographers as he celebrated his comeback triumph.

Some possibly foolhardy pundits are even turning to children for help in deciphering the volatile political mood. Surveys of juvenile opinion carried out by *Weekly Review*, the schoolchildren's newspaper, have correctly forecast the result in the past nine presidential races.

Then there are the "pattern-recognition techniques" as developed by Volodia Kellis-Borok, who in 1981 developed a forecasting system called the "13 keys to the presidency". The theory is that most presidential elections are essentially referendums on the record of an administration.

The keys record the state of the economy, the charisma (or otherwise) of the candidates, the level of social unrest, foreign policy failures and successes, and the number of scandals that have hit an administration. If six or more keys turn against the incumbent party, it loses. The results this year are not uplifting. Mr Clinton, who is recorded in the system as having no charisma, is apparently expected to scrape a victory over Mr Bush — who also has no charisma — based on six, mainly economic keys going against the administration.

As Mr Bush and Mr Clinton and their running mates are put through intensive coaching in the days leading up to the first presidential debate, the pundits have expressed their horror at the prospect of having to say intelligent and witty things about three presidential de-



Homing instinct: Bill Clinton, out for a morning jog in Washington, checking his bearings as he runs towards the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue

bates and one vice-presidential debate over just nine days. The "talking heads" are worried that the public will see them changing their minds rapidly over a short space of time. They also fear that they will not have time to agree with each other about what they have seen or decide the winner of each debate. David Broder, the *Washington Post* political writer, is undaunted. "To change our minds four times in nine days," he said, "would be tough."

"Four times in nine days is easy." But most of his colleagues are not so sure. "It looks bad when conventional wisdom flip-flops too quickly," said Jonathan Alter of *Newsweek*. "It erodes public confidence."

The Democratic and Republican "spin doctors" are also concerned. Usually, each debate is separated by a couple of weeks, giving them time to lower expectations of their candidates in advance of a debate and then ample opportunity after a debate to talk up their man's performance before the next encounter.

Michael McCurry, a Democratic spin man, said the pace of the debates would be so frenetic that his craft might become useless: "It's a very strong argument for just sitting back, popping a beer, putting up your feet and letting it all happen on its own."

Perot puzzle, page 17

Japanese slum riots quelled

Tokyo: Order was seemingly restored in a Osaka district yesterday after four nights of street battles between 2,500 riot police and 700 destitute Japanese, driven to violence to protest the suspension of welfare payments (Joanna Pitman writes).

Hundreds of riot police were still on patrol in Airm, Osaka's seediest slum, which is home to 30,000 day labourers many of whom live in ES-a-night flop houses or sleep rough. Airm is often cited as one of the symbols of the grim underside of Japan's economic miracle.

The economic downturn and lingering business slump of the past two years have prompted Osaka municipal government to cancel an emergency financial aid programme offering about £10 a day in loans to the labourers. The supply of piecemeal work, normally handed out at a makeshift job centre at 5am everyday, has dwindled in the wake of bankruptcies and a construction industry slump. Many of the rioters were driven to violence by alcohol dependence and indebtedness to loan sharks.

Kuwait women demand vote

Kuwait City: In the first demonstration of its kind in the Gulf, women marched on a polling station to protest at being barred from standing or voting in Kuwait's first election for seven years (Christopher Walker writes).

Shaikh Saad al-Sabah, the prime minister and crown prince, said he backed the women's campaign and that the new 50-seat parliament should vote on it. Of the 278 candidates, the majority are believed to support extending the vote to women.

Abortion toll

Washington: More than 10,000 women died from illegal abortions and about 200,000 children were placed in orphanages while an anti-abortion law was in effect in Romania, according to *The American Journal of Public Health*. (AP)

Guyana votes

Georgetown: Voters headed to the polls in Guyana, where international observers are monitoring the first general elections in seven years which could end the 28-year rule of President Hoyte's People's National Congress. (AFP)

Leader picked

Moscow: The Estonian parliament chose conservative Lennart Meri as its first post-Soviet president, reversing last month's presidential election in which Arnold Rüutel, a former Communist, had won 42 per cent of the vote to Mr Meri's 30 per cent. (Reuters)

Ban stays

Lilongwe, Malawi: President Banda, who holds his office for life, has rejected the introduction of a multiparty system in Malawi on the grounds that it would be unsuitable for the country. (Reuters)

Club formed

Nicosia: Iran and four former Soviet republics on the Caspian Sea — Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan — have agreed to form a club to promote regional co-operation. (Reuters)

Cash winner

Tokyo: Japan's contributions to the Middle East during the Gulf war pushed Tokyo's development aid last year to \$5.4 billion, the largest in the world. The equivalent US figure is \$5.6 billion. (Reuters)

Beating badgers to death with spades.

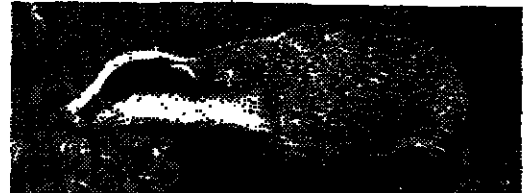
Does it sound like good sport to you?

To some people it does. They send terriers into badger setts in the hope that the two animals will fight. Sometimes the dogs emerge exhausted and bleeding. Sometimes the badger is injured and left to die below ground. Sometimes both animals suffocate.

But more often than not, the humans eventually dig down to the exhausted badger, beat it senseless with their spades, then throw it to the dogs.

In the last ten years the RSPCA has secured 258 prosecutions against people involved in badger baiting.

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Critter becomes lumberjack's owl of derision

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN SWEET HOME, OREGON

Norm's a lumberjack and he is most definitely not OK. "My neighbours have already quit town and I don't know if I'll have a job next week," he says, bitterly draining his sixth beer in the Watering Hole, a grimy, horseshoe-shaped bar at the foot of the Cascade mountains where the woodsmen of Sweet Home assemble to gripe. "This place is coming apart, and all 'cos of a critter I never even heard of a few years ago."

The northern spotted owl, a small unassuming bird that nests in the ancient forests of the Pacific northwest, has recently taken on enormous political significance. In 1990, the owl was declared an endangered species and tree-felling was banned in millions of acres of old-growth forests, threatening to wreck the livelihood of Nor-

man Wooditi and thousands of his fellow loggers.

If there is one thing Norm hates more than owls, it is environmentalists. The bird has become the central focus in the debate in America over the competing needs of industry and the environment.

While Bill Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate, has talked of the need for government and the timber business to co-operate on protecting endangered species, President Bush has made it clear that the days of the spotted owl ("that little furry-feathery guy") may be numbered. "It's time to put people ahead of owls," he said in the northwest last month.

That promise may come too late for communities such as Sweet Home (population 7,005, and falling) which has survived for generations on

logging the great pine forests that cover the Cascades. Government-owned forests in the area once produced an average of 60 million feet of wood annually; last year that figure had fallen to just over three million. Many of the town's businesses have closed and families have moved to cities in search of work. Outside Sweet Home church is a sign: "Whatever your work, do it for God." That makes Norman Wooditi snort. "What work am I going to do. Become a computer operator? We been pushed down and down, but they better know they're pushing down on a group of people that's well-armed..." He tails off. "Goddam bird. I'm the endangered species."

Mr Wooditi's forebears have been cutting timber in the forests around Sweet Home for four generations, going

back to the days when the settlement was called Elk's Head — changed to Sweet Home in the timber boom.

"Might as well change it back," says Norman, "only Elk's Ass would more appropriate."

Environmentalists say the spotted owl is being unfairly blamed for economic problems. "The timber industry has been gradually con-

tracting for years," says Regan Merritt of the Oregon National Reserves Council, an environmental group. "But that's more because of mechanisation than the restrictions of the Endangered Species Act."

Mr Bush's position on the spotted owl represents a significant shift from his stance as the "environment president" in the 1988 campaign. Four years ago, he was sailing through the sludge of Boston harbour, pointing up the environmental failures of Michael Dukakis, the Massachusetts governor and Democratic contender.

The Sweet Home lumberjacks say they plan to support Ross Perot, regardless of Bush promises. "I don't think he really gives a hoot about owls," says Mr Wooditi. As they stare into their glasses and contemplate a grim future, the old joke barely raises a smile.



We've always been a sexy election issue

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Savimbi concedes defeat in Angola assembly election

FROM SAM KILEY IN LUANDA AND JAN RAATH IN HARARE

ANGOLA'S ruling party, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), won most seats yesterday in Angola's first free elections for its legislature and President dos Santos continued to hold the lead in the presidential race against Jonas Savimbi.

However, Dr Savimbi, the leader of the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita), was clinging to the hope yesterday afternoon that as votes from his strongholds in the central plateau of Angola came in, he might be able to force President dos Santos's lead below 50 per cent, which would force the presidential election into a second round.

By mid-afternoon yesterday, Mr dos Santos had won 51.4 per cent and a second round looked likely.

Abel Chivukuvuku, Dr Savimbi's foreign affairs spokesman, conceded yesterday that Unita had lost the elections to the 223-seat national assembly. But observers remain worried about how Dr Savimbi and his Unita cadres would react to an imminent defeat, keeping tensions high in Luanda, the capital.

With an MPLA victory almost certain, analysts reflected on the almost insurmountable economic and social problems a new government would face. The task of rebuilding the country, where the economic contraction that has taken place for most of the past 16 years is expected to continue, is matched by the pressure to find work for the 150,000 rebels and government troops being demobilised from the Unita and MPLA armies.

In addition, about 827,000 internal refugees from the civil war will have to be resettled, and 300,000 repatriated from Zaïre and Zambia. Unemployment is officially about 12.4 per cent, but is probably much higher because 40 per cent of Angola's 10.6 million citizens live in the cities where industry is at a standstill.

Potentially, Angola is a rich country. It is oil-rich and output is projected to rise to 540,000 barrels a day this year and, by 1997, to 700,000 barrels a day. This year Angola will earn \$250 million (£145 million) from its diamond exports.



Dos Santos: leading in presidential race

But economic mismanagement and corruption have led to a budget deficit of \$1.128 billion, a third of the country's gross domestic product. De Beers estimates that diamond smuggling has lost the state \$500 million in revenue.

"There is a desperate need for change," a Western ambassador said. "Corruption has to be weeded out and the stalled IMF and World Bank recovery programmes [introducing a market economy to undo 16 years of state Marxism] must be implemented. Unless they do this and start to repay their debts, the Angolan government can expect little help from the international donor community."

Similar pressures burden Mozambique, which ended 16 years of civil war on Sunday when President Chris-sano and Afonso Dhlakama, the Renamo guerrilla leader, signed a peace accord in Rome. With its economy devastated, and millions of people displaced by the fighting and famine, help is urgently required to rebuild the country.

Yesterday, the Mozambican government said that it would halt all offensive operations against Renamo as a sign of goodwill following a similar gesture by Mr Dhlakama. He had promised that his men would stop fighting 24 hours after the signing ceremony. The government's reciprocal action pre-empted the deadline for cessation of hostilities, which is due 30 days after official ratification of the treaty by the Mozambican parliament.

The announcement was welcomed by relief agencies desperate to accelerate an aid operation by sending food convoys into the hinterland. "We'll have to see how quickly this is communicated on the ground," said a Red Cross official. "But it's psychologically very important." More than two million of Mozambique's 15 million people are refugees in neighbouring states and millions more have fled their homes to other places within the country.

But there was little rejoicing in the capital, Maputo, at the end of the war. A government official said: "If it had been signed on Thursday when it was supposed to, the town would have gone wild. But when Renamo gives every appearance of being dragged kicking and screaming to the table, you wonder how sincere they are." Yesterday, South Africa offered to monitor the ceasefire and France pledged to help rebuild the country.



Full supporting programme: three young women from the formerly Marxist Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, led by President dos Santos, listening to election results on the radio in Luanda

Military ANC wing 'to stay'

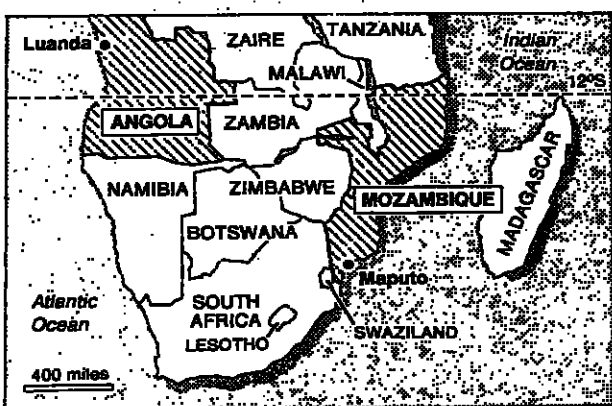
FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

THE African National Congress has no intention of disbanding its armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, no matter what Chief Mangosuthu Buthezi, chief minister of KwaZulu and president of the mainly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party, might demand.

A prominent leader of the movement said that the ANC still intends to march on Uthandi, Chief Buthezi's capital, as well as Mmabatho, the capital of the homeland of Bophuthatswana.

Chris Hani, who is now general secretary of the South African Communist party, and a senior figure on the ANC national executive, also hinted to a meeting of the black National Union of Mineworkers that the ANC will march again on Bisho, the capital of Ciskei, where 28 demonstrators and a soldier died last month.

Cell visits: The Red Cross said yesterday that it had been given permission to visit police stations, where scores of detainees have died. The organisation now has access to all detainees. (Reuters)



Sultan dispenses chariot charity

BY KENNETH WHITING IN BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

The Sultan of Brunei marked his 25th anniversary on the throne yesterday by riding through the streets of the capital in a chariot pulled by 40 men, followed by his two wives in a Rolls-Royce.

Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah is considered the world's richest man because, as absolute monarch, he has Brunei's oil income and foreign currency reserves at his disposal, a potential wealth of £21.5 billion.

In his speech, he pledged £580,000 of his own money to a national fund to aid Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and urged Brunei's 261,000 people also to make donations.

After an audience for visiting royalty and government leaders in his 1,778-room palace, the world's largest, the sultan led a procession to greet his subjects, who lined the two-mile route in their thousands. He smiled and waved from a brown chariot encrusted with gold. It was equipped with a throne topped with a yellow parasol, and pulled by 40 army officers clad in ceremonial black trimmed with gold. The sultan, 46, was wearing royal yellow and many medals. A sash was draped over one shoulder and the royal "koris", a dagger with a wavy blade, was placed in his waistband.

The monarch was a Sandhurst cadet when he was

summoned to the throne in 1967 at the age of 21 on his father's abdication. But Omar Ali Saifuddin continued to run things from behind the scenes until his death in 1986.

The old sultan was an admirer of Winston Churchill, who held a prominent place in the capital until this year. Only the palace, a resplendent gold-domed mosque and edifices to honour the Brunei royal family held greater pride of place than the Winston Churchill Memorial Museum. A huge statue in front of the two-story building showed Churchill, two fingers of the right hand extended in the V-for-victory sign and a big bronze cigar in his mouth.

But Churchill has vanished, statue and all. The rebuilt museum reopened last week as the Royal Regalia Centre, a shrine to the sultan and his accomplishments. One of those accomplishments has been to enhance the role of Islam in recent years. It is not fundamentalism but a rather prudish form of religious observance that one Asian diplomat likened to "Victorian Islam".

Secular, religious and military power rest with the sultan. He is hereditary ruler, head of state, prime minister, defence minister and commander of the armed forces. (AP)



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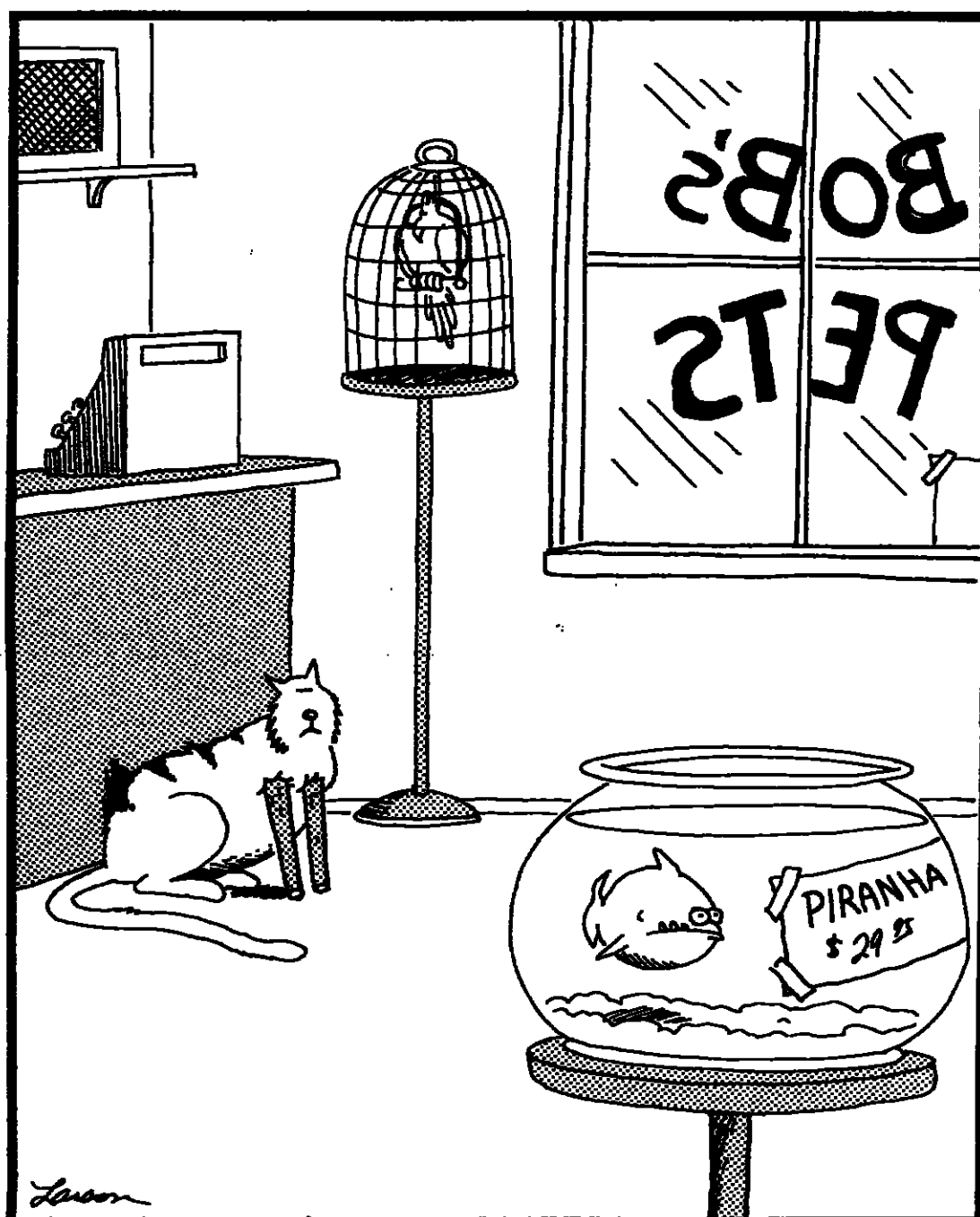
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NATIONAL SAVINGS

SECURITY HAS NEVER BEEN SO INTERESTING.

When tragedy engulfs us all

A plane crash tests secular values to the limit, argues Janet Daley

Another 90 seconds and he would have made it," said an airport official of the doomed El Al pilot. Thus does fate add insult to gratuitous tragedy. Every culture must find ways of coming to terms with the mockery which fortune makes of human endeavour. Every society is humbled in its own way. Our own version of hubris is the worship of rationality whose ultimate expression is all-conquering technology. Undone by a failure of our equipment, we can only search for forensic evidence, dissect the data, and explain the particular concatenation of chance mishaps which led to catastrophe.

We look at the inferno in Amsterdam which descended like some horseman of the apocalypse on a quiet Sunday evening and ask, "why?" Parents searching for their children, the families of people who had the misfortune simply to be visiting those flats on the fateful night: why them?

Had it been a terrorist bomb which had brought this holocaust, we could have found a channel for our desperation. A deliberate massacre of innocents contains its own anti-vengeance. But a true accident leaves us impotent, able only to scavenge amid the debris for clues to the least important kind of answer — the purely mechanical one which can tell us why this incident happened but not why the world is constructed in this insupportable way.

We are compelled to do this, not simply because by explaining we hope to avoid a repetition of that particular disastrous sequence of events, but because, for reasons too deep in the human psyche to be questioned, we have a philosophical need for an explanation, a way of making sense of the unacceptable. It is as if, in giving the fullest possible account of causes and ramifications, we can bring what is unfathomable back into the realm of reason. Not only will we be explaining this disaster but, by implication, we shall be making some headway on the great question of the human condition: why must the innocent suffer?

There are religious justifications, which for all their cultural variety, reduce to remarkably similar moral principles. Perhaps human intelligence has restricted resources in this territory. The limits of our discourse seem to be exhausted with only a few strategies. Paganism saw the torments of those who committed evil unknowingly (like Oedipus) as a reminder of the gods' power which it was arrogant for us to challenge. The Old Testament too, whose God was less whimsical but also less biddable, took innocent suffering as a reminder of our inferiority to God whose moral priorities were to be accepted without question. His answer to Job when he demanded to know why he suffered unjustly, was only, "I am what I am."

Christianity lays even greater

emphasis on the notion of original sin. We are all guilty and thus suffering becomes the price we pay for expiation, a more satisfying doctrine than many simply suffering is seen to have a point after all (and even possibly a reward). The trouble is that universal guilt, committed before we were born and through no act of our own will, never seems a very acceptable reason for individual agony. Even those who accept the metaphysical argument find it hard to look pain and grief in the face and say, "This is as it should be."

In the greatest of all literary works on this subject, *The Brothers Karamazov*, Dostoevsky puts the ultimate arguments into the mouth of the conscientious atheist, Ivan Karamazov, whose compassion for humanity will not permit him, as he says, "to accept God's world". Ivan challenges his devout brother, Alyosha, to say whether, if he were the architect of the universe, he would construct a system in which the price of salvation was the suffering of a single child. Alyosha, the novice monk, falls silent. But if we feel that theology lets us down, that even the promise of future reward cannot excuse what happens to some people in this life, we are faced, if anything, with a worse prospect. Albert Camus wrote in *The Myth of Sisyphus*, that a universe explained even with bad reasons was preferable to one with no explanation at all: to have heaven thunder out its blind judgment ("I am what I am") is better than to have it fall silent. But silence is the inheritance of our sceptical age. Without explanation, without consolation, we are left to perfect our machines and to pretend that, apart from the occasional slip, we are not the victims of fate.

Unfortunately, having left behind fatalism, we have also lost the rituals with which fate was propitiated. We have no rich symbols, no elaborate procedures for encompassing these events. The technical vocabulary of prevention is a poor substitute for the language of deliverance with which such cataclysm would once have been incorporated into the community's experience.

But perhaps it is facile and nostalgic to assume that there was once a golden age in which myth or sacrament offered perfect comfort. Personal grief has probably always been nearly unendurable. So the absence of religion creates a vacuum which less dignified rites rush to fill. The tabloid-soap opera culture with its lurid *schaufenstraude* turns the age-old struggle with the fates into bathos. But who is to say that the tawdry sentimentality of the tabloid culture is not able to speak as much solace to ordinary people as the arcane mysteries of theology? The families of Amsterdam will find their common world where they can and the rest of us will, briefly, find our own troubles and dissatisfactions dwarfed by their anguish.

We are left to perfect our machines and pretend that we are not the victims of fate

An epistle to the Brighton conference from George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury

What sort of society are we aiming to build together? There are many urgent problems on the political agenda, but beneath these lie deeper uncertainties about moral goals. As a Christian leader, I hold that morality is not merely about what we do in private, but governs our attitude to others and our vision of the kind of society we are striving to build.

We have much to be thankful for in our social order, but must also recognise some major weaknesses. One problem is that many people feel powerless and insignificant. A substantial minority, swollen by mass unemployment, feel they have no stake at all. Many more are troubled that their life chances appear to be determined by impersonal economic forces and distant bureaucratic over which they have little or no control.

Second, the sense of any shared purpose is dwindling. The economic drive to define us as consumers of

Tories and the church

material goods is one factor: in a supermarket, the only common purpose is shopping. We also witnessed a powerful attack during the 1980s on the value of public goods, together with a strong affirmation of private values and individual choice. Beneficial in some respects, this has not encouraged a sense of common purpose.

Third, many people no longer believe in a source of moral authority lying beyond the individual, so that morality is reduced to a matter of personal opinion. The privatisation of morality threatens to undermine a sense of social cohesion as society is broken down into a multiplicity of individual atoms: where everything is relative and nothing is absolutely good, I sensed that some of those who

rubbished authority in the 1960s, and some who rubbish public goods in the 1980s, may now be reflecting more carefully on the consequences when morality itself becomes privatised. The doctrine that everyone may do as they like so long as they do not positively harm another leads us into a moral void and the death of society.

Even though Christianity is less potent than it used to be as a source of common aspirations and symbols, it is still strongly embedded in our culture. The church has the duty to help rebuild a vision of a good society with moral goals. Christian teaching embraces both freedom and fellowship. Freedom is the absolute essence of human beings' ability to play their part in God's plan, since they alone have

the gift of free choice. Yet the mere absence of constraints would leave a person unfilled. Only in exercising liberty through fellowship with other people, through love and service to them, can human personality realise its potential.

Technical judgments on the detailed means by which to achieve desirable ends should be left to the politicians and experts. But the church should try to influence the goals. We should inject the idea that there are eternal values and absolute standards of what is good. We are committed to love of each and every neighbour, to freedom exercised in fellowship with other people, and in service to them; to justice and dignity.

We must articulate clear opinions on matters where profound moral

issues are involved. For example, there are reports that the government intends to cut planned spending on overseas aid. I do not underestimate the financial and political pain which the government faces, but I hope these reports are false. The priorities for cutting and not cutting must necessarily reflect not only political interests but a sense of values.

If we think the going is rough here, let us remember the calamities unfolding in other parts of the world struggling with the catastrophe of mass starvation, chronic poverty and disease. The quality of British overseas aid is good, but its volume falls grossly short of the United Nations aid target (0.7 per cent of GNP) to which the government is in principle committed. Let us have the moral courage and self-respect to increase it. I call then, without apology, for a return to strong moral principles to guide and govern our nation.

Only a tax rise can save us

Cecil Parkinson on Nigel Lawson's damaging policies



Fighting over the pound: Lawson's and Parkinson's battles of the Eighties have returned to haunt the government

In opposition in the late 1970s a consistent theme of Conservative politicians was that the Labour government interfered too much in the running of the economy. We ridiculed Treasury ministers for believing that they could "fine tune" their way to economic success. The Conservative victory in 1979 saw an end to economic tinkering. We set out our economic objectives clearly. We promised a sound money government and set targets for the rate of growth of the money supply. We promised to restore incentives and set about the task of slashing tax rates. We promised a smaller state and embarked on a programme of reducing government expenditure. And it worked.

The tough monetary squeeze imposed by Geoffrey Howe in the early 1980s set the conditions for six years of uninterrupted growth from 1983. Inflation was reduced from a peak of 21.9 per cent in May 1980 to 2.4 per cent in July and August 1986. Public spending was brought under control, we began to repay the national debt and productivity improved dramatically.

Yet probably by 1986 and certainly by 1987, the policy which had brought such success had been abandoned. Nigel Lawson, who had contributed so much to Geoffrey Howe's success, had become Chancellor in 1983 and by 1986 was a major player among the world's finance ministers. His role at the September 1985 meeting of the group of five finance ministers at the Plaza Hotel in New York marked a watershed in the course of domestic economic policy.

The Plaza agreement, that the world's leading central banks should intervene in the markets to bring down the level of the dollar, whetted his appetite for international co-operation to manage exchange rates. A central tenet of Thatcherism had been breached: the market had been bucked and the Treasury had returned to "fine tuning". Nigel Lawson became convinced that Britain should join the exchange rate mechanism but, as he describes in his new book, Mrs Thatcher remained implacable in her opposition to fixed or managed exchange rates. By early

1987 he had decided that if he could not join the ERM he would shadow it. The Treasury determined that the right level for sterling against the mark was DM3.00 and interest-rate policy was set to maintain this parity. With a booming economy the pound was in demand and so, in order to keep it at its shadow rate, interest rates were cut. In their determination to maintain an arbitrary exchange rate, the Treasury were sowing the seeds of inflation. And then, in October, came "Black Monday". Fearing that the world was about to be plunged into recession as a result of the stock-market crash, Nigel Lawson and his fellow finance ministers decided on a co-ordinated reduction in interest rates. By that time, the British economy was booming and domestic monetary policy needed to be tightened. Nevertheless, in order to keep sterling at its unofficial ceiling against the mark, further cuts in interest rates were subsequently made. Between October 1987 and May 1988 base rates fell to 7.5 per cent.

Even after this experience, the Treasury continued to pursue the goal of exchange-rate stability through international co-opera-

tion. In 1990, although it was certainly never discussed in Cabinet after my return to government in 1987, John Major, Mr Lawson's successor as Chancellor, finally overcame Mrs Thatcher's resistance and took Britain officially into the ERM.

At first the government could claim success as inflation and interest rates came down. But the fall in inflation was due to the tight monetary policy introduced in 1988. By the end of last year, the true costs of ERM membership were clear. It was preventing further, desperately needed interest rate cuts. Following Norman Lamont's decision to suspend our membership, we have an opportunity to get interest rates down and put the economy back on the rails.

The government should recognise that a return to the ERM on any foreseeable time scale is unthinkable. Twice in the last five years we have seen that fixed or managed exchange-rate systems just do not work. Different economic conditions in different countries demand different policies. Re-tying the UK economy, which desperately needs lower interest rates, with

the German economy which, because of an expanding money supply, must maintain high interest rates, would be economic madness. The events of the last few weeks have shown clearly that convergence is a dream.

Even outside the ERM "recovery" is not going to be easy. There are no painless options available and the government's task has been made more difficult by its rhetoric of the past months. By arguing that the ERM was the guarantor of its anti-inflationary strategy, it will have a tough job in convincing the markets that outside of the mechanism it is not soft on inflation.

We need to return to the Howe/Thatcher policies of the early 1980s. We need a monetary policy, as Norman Lamont said during the emergency debate two weeks ago, which is "tailored to the needs of the British economy". This means lower interest rates and the Treasury must spell out clearly and quickly which monetary indicators it is going to follow and set targets for their growth.

The government must also show the markets that it is serious about reducing the public sector borrowing requirement. At the very least, the Cabinet has to ensure that it

keeps within the level of public spending agreed earlier this year. But the signs are far from good. Recent announcements, such as the increase in police pay, rumours that the government intends to go it alone in developing the European Fighter Aircraft and the cost of introducing the council tax, will make it difficult for the government to meet its target.

I hope that the Cabinet will be able to reduce public spending sufficiently, but even tougher action may be required. Last year's Autumn Statement forecast a PSBR of £28 billion but, with unemployment higher and growth lower than forecast, it will probably turn out to be at least £32 billion and next year's will reach £40 billion. Public spending will have to be cut dramatically if the PSBR is to be tackled but, as even Mrs Thatcher found, this is much easier said than done. The danger is that the capital programmes, which could help to improve the supply side of

the economy, will be the first to go. As Norman Lamont prepares for his speech to this week's Conservative party conference he has to face the possibility that as well as curbing spending, taxes may have to be raised in order to help reduce the deficit. An increase in VAT or excise duties would boost inflation, increases in employers' national insurance would raise costs at a time when they need to be contained and so the Chancellor will have to look at income taxes.

Following reunification the Germans imposed a short-term levy to help pay for its costs. Mr Lamont should consider a similar measure. Tax cuts have been one of the outstanding achievements of this government and the long-term goal of future reductions must not be abandoned, but, as a temporary measure, tax increases may be necessary. An exceptional two-year increase in the basic rate would reassure the markets and may be the economy's best chance of a speedy recovery. It may also be the guarantee of a fifth Conservative government.

Lord Parkinson's autobiography, *Right at the Centre*, has just been published by Weidenfeld (£15.99).



...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

The 500th anniversary of the death of the great Italian painter Piero della Francesca (c 1420-92) is being celebrated by a wide variety of painters, art historians, academics, novelists, collectors and art lovers, all of whom have some thing intensely personal to contribute to the discussion, bringing to the art of this supreme quattrocento artist their own particular revelations and insights. In this Festschrift for Piero, I have invited a selection of them to explain quite what it is about Piero that makes their response to him so intensely personal.

Sir John Hen-Popsy, art historian: "Piero has a profound sense of geometry. Take his *Madonna*, for instance. If one makes a triangle from the top of the Madonna's head to the tips of her outstretched arms, an oblong from the head of the third supplicant to the left knee of the fifth supplicant, a large circle centring on the spot where the fifth pleat in her dress and the chin of the fourth supplicant coincide, and finally an oblong incorporating her entire body from her crown to her feet, one finds something quite staggering: an octagon, a circle, an oblong and a triangle — and all of them scribbled by an eminent art historian over the same old painting! Of course, if Piero had done the same, one needn't have bothered. But then, frankly, he wasn't much of an art historian, poor chap."

John Mordinner, novelist and TV personality: "Holidaying in

Umbria, there is nothing more enduringly civilised after enjoying a light lunch than to be driven to one of those marvellous little churches in the back of beyond, perhaps stopping for a light lunch on the way, and there collecting the key from the local Cobbler."

Before going in, I tend to have a spot of lunch, one then pins inside, preferably with a packed lunch, to see, emerging from the shadows, two or three splendid murals by Piero della Francesca, well worth a minute of anybody's time. Next, a spot of late lunch at the local trattoria, allowing time for a good siesta before dinner. I can think of no other artist who has the same effect on me. Anyone for pudding?

Nicholas Kervon, Controller of Radio 3: "Intense mystery surrounds Piero's marvellous *Flagellation of Christ* in Urbino. Who are these men in the foreground? What are they discussing? Why do they seem to take no interest in the tragic events going on behind them? What is it all about?"

In my application to be Curator at Urbino, I have made it clear that I would gain a wider audience for the painting by making it more accessible and relevant to the everyday needs of the ordinary viewer.

My plans are threefold: first, I would have small nametags attached to the lapsels of each of the figures, stating name, title (if any) and position held, thus facilitating interpretation. I would then twist the head of at least one of the figures in the foreground so

that he is forced to look behind him: after all, if they are not interested in what's happening, I hardly think we can expect the viewer to be.

Third, I would change the painting's title to something more upbeat and positive. *The Mid-Morning Chat of Christ by Piero della Francesca* would be less distasteful, don't you think?

Kiara Skura, feminist art critic, author of *Mrs Rembrandt, Neglected Genius* (780pp): "It seems to me that what Piero della Francesca was really saying in her *Baptism of Christ* was, yes, I do support the single-parent family as a viable unit, yes, I fully support all demands for crèches in places of work and no, I do not believe that the present government has any right whatsoever to reduce Family Allowance in real terms."

Of course, there are literally thousands of female artists who died in 1492 whose work deserved as much praise as hers. Some literally amazing basket-weaving went on in 15th-century Italy, and the wimple-stacking was second to none. But these were female preserves, so the male-dominated art establishment prefers to banish them. Literally."

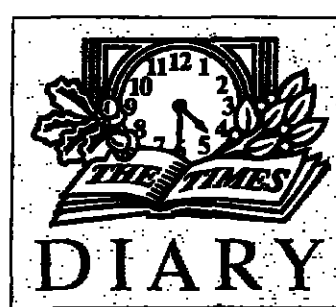
Dr Spooner, Warden of New College, Oxford, on *The Queen of Sheba adorning the wood of the True Cross*: "The dove, hovering in the blue sky clearly demonstrates Piero's peck for faint, and the lay of plait in this fraught tescosheerly close a neep deed to mend leaning to the tory whale of the crew toss."

Ich bin kein Berliner

IN STARK contrast to the German unification party at London's Banqueting Hall two years ago, it was virtually impossible to find a British politician who was prepared to stand up and be counted at yesterday's party for German National Day. The celebration at the Belgravia residence of Hermann von Richthofen, the ambassador, was a low-key affair. While Douglas Hurd and MPs from all parties attended the unification party in October 1990, the most senior member of the government present yesterday was Alastair Goodlad, a junior minister at the Foreign Office.

But if there were no Cabinet members in attendance, at least there was Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, present to defend the honour of the pound as it slipped below 2.40 to the mark. Alas, he did not encounter his counterpart from the Bundesbank. Although there is a German central banker attached to the embassy, the nameless official showed impressive tact by absenting himself on holiday yesterday. The most noticeable thing was the fact that none of the Cabinet was there, says one German guest. "We had been promised John Gummer and then there was talk of William Waldegrave popping in. But neither of them turned up. It was totally unnecessary for the Brits' government to act in this way." Alongside Goodlad, the German permanent under-secretary at the Foreign Office.

Even the newly Euro-fanatic Labour party was conspicuous by its absence. Although both George Robertson and Jack Cunningham were invited, neither could find the



energy to attend after a week in Blackpool insisting on their Euro-credentials.

John Major will not be the only one to cast a nervous glance at Baroness Thatcher when she takes her seat on the platform at the Tory Party conference on Thursday. Sir Edward Heath will already be seated at the other end when she makes her appearance in time for the economic debate. Heath returned from China only at the weekend and to the horror of the party's high command announced that he, too, will be present for Norman Lamont's speech on Thursday. Frantic moves are now afoot to avert a repetition of last year's embarrassment when Heath, to his eternal chagrin, was forced to join in the standing ovation to the lady who ousted him.

Hot lobbyists' tips

THEY are smartly dressed but not flashy. Always reserving their tables at the best restaurants in town, they are keen to impress but not pushy. They don't accost ministers but can be seen deep in conversation with his closest aides. They are the model of conference lobbyists, more than 300 of whom are about to descend on Brighton for the Tory party conference promoting their own businesses, clients and sometimes just their pet obsessions.

Not all of course, live up to the model — only those who have been schooled by Sir Bernard Ingham and Hill and Knowlton. Together, Baroness Thatcher's former press officer and one of the largest public relations companies in Britain have produced the ultimate guide for the lobbyist on how to ensure they hit their target. It warns lobbyists not to delude their clients with claims that they are hob-nobbing with secretaries of state. "Don't aim too high by telling the board that you will be rubbing shoulders with national leaders," it says. "Do your homework and identify useful second-rank figures such as special advisers, parliamentary private secretaries, and party officials well in advance. They can prove more useful than a harassed front-bencher waylaid between important meetings."

The guide even offers a dress code. Double-breasted suits, for both sexes, are *de rigueur*, but there is a warning. "Do not overdo whatever the outside temperature because television lights and poor air-conditioning can give some halls the climate of New Orleans."

The scope for a little industrial espionage is there, too. The conference "provides a bird's eye view of how one's business rivals are hoarding their messages". But Ingham, a non-executive director of Hill and Knowlton, admits that perhaps he is not best placed to give conference survival tips. "I haven't been to one since 1966," says Ingham. While he was head of the government information service, he was forced to stay away in order to maintain a non-party political role. "And I have no intention of attending now if I can possibly avoid it."

England expects

BRITAIN, it seems, has to go back 187 years to find a cause for national celebration. The government

is proposing that Britain celebrate Trafalgar day, October 21, as a public holiday in place of May day. Not everyone feels we need to travel back quite so far. Euro-sceptics, for example, are keen to see September 16 celebrated as a national holiday, to commemorate the pounds' freedom from the ERM. Tony Benn, on the other hand, is one who is not in favour of any change. "May day is an international day and I am sorry it wasn't set permanently on May 1. I'm not in favour of changing the holiday to Mrs Thatcher's birthday," Sir Kingsley Amis is in the Trafalgar day camp. "If it's going to get up the noses of the French then I'm all in favour."

The Automobile Association, provider of route maps and all-round advice on how to get from A to B, appears to be in need of a little of its own counsel. Its latest weekend break hotels directory places Loughborough in Lincoln-

Can you show me Whitley Bay?

yes but I know a man who can't



shire, Whitley Bay in Yorkshire instead of Tyne and Wear and has at least three other similar errors. May we recommend the AA Road Atlas and Gazetteer, just £2.99 for the paperback edition from most local supermarkets?



THE MAASTRICHT CABAL

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, is used to negotiating the thickest of diplomatic argument. He is less used to rallying a hostile Conservative party. Yet his future — and that of the prime minister and his party — rests on the cobbling together of a foreign policy that can unite the cabinet, the parliamentary party and Conservative voters behind the government. Whether Mr Hurd's speech today to his party conference promises to be successful in this endeavour will be judged not by the strength of the vote in favour of the official motion, but by the activists' reception of his words and by the tone of the debate that precedes them.

The Tory party has never been famous for the quality of its internal democracy. Today the conference organisers will decide whether to accept any of an unusually high number of hostile amendments to the obsequious motion for debate, which "congratulates Her Majesty's Government on its leadership in foreign affairs, especially during the UK Presidency of the EC..." and urges the government to continue to build an open and outward-looking Community. The chances are they will all be rejected.

Nonetheless, the amendments are an indication of the fault-lines that are likely to be all too evident in this afternoon's debate. Chisholm offers: "This conference believes that any expansion in the role of the Community in the national life of member countries should only be undertaken with the consent of the citizens of those countries." Two associations urge the government not to ratify the Maastricht treaty. Iford North, in an almost unprecedented display of rebelliousness, says that "conference regrets that the government does not trust the people sufficiently to allow them to decide Britain's future in Europe through a referendum on the ratification of the Maastricht treaty".

John Major has, for the moment, the support of his cabinet in pressing on with ratification. As a sop to the Euro-skeptics, he has conceded that sterling will stay out of the exchange-rate mechanism for the foreseeable future. But the equation is loaded

heavily in favour of the Euro-enthusiasts: hence the sunny countenances of Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine. They win the Maastricht treaty, with all its powers. A future prime minister could decide to ignore his or her opt-out rights and sign up for economic and monetary union. All the Euro-skeptics have guaranteed is a small delay.

So Mr Major has whipped his cabinet into agreement. Faced with the choice between losing their departmental drivers and red boxes and standing behind the patched-up policy, none were prepared to sacrifice themselves. The prime minister may even be able to whip enough of his MPs to ratify Maastricht, particularly since the Labour party will offer little resistance.

Such a cabal of members of the two main parties working together against their fringes has not been seen since Britain joined the EC 21 years ago. Britain's entry was then carried on a free vote with the support of 69 Labour MPs and the abstention of 20 more. No fewer than 131 MPs voted against their parties, including 39 Conservatives and Ulster Unionists.

But at least voters had been given a chance in the 1970 general election to choose between parties with different policies on Europe. Official Tory policy was to join and official Labour policy opposed entry on the terms negotiated by the Conservative government. Moreover, the government conceded a free vote, which made it easier for MPs to take account of the views of their constituents. But most important, Britain's accession was finally endorsed by the electorate through a referendum.

Ratification of the Maastricht treaty looks set to be much less democratic than was Britain's entry to the EC. Neither main party is prepared officially to oppose the treaty. Neither would countenance a free vote and both have expressed opposition to consulting the voters through a referendum. Today's Tory party conference will expose some of the frustration ordinary people feel at being ignored by their leaders. The prime minister and his foreign secretary will ignore that anger at their peril.

FREEZE AND CUT

With stockmarkets collapsing around the world, and currencies falling like skittles before the unstoppable German mark, panic-stricken politicians and government officials should recall Ronald Reagan's comment immediately after the Wall Street crash in 1987: "Why did stock prices fall? I guess they were too high."

Like many of Mr Reagan's apparently jejune remarks, this one turned out to be more profound than dozens of voluminous academic and official analyses of Black Monday. As John Major has learned to his cost, governments cannot control financial markets and should not try to do so. Instead of trying to "defend" exchange rates or worrying about stockmarket frenzies, politicians who want to create prosperous economic conditions must concentrate on the economic forces they can control.

Public sector pay, the subject of yesterday's meeting of the Cabinet subcommittee on public spending, is one of the most important economic levers in the hands of the government. As Britain faces the challenges and opportunities of devaluation, the Cabinet must get a grip on this lever and pull it with all its force. Even before the devaluation, there was a strong case for a public sector pay freeze. Now that a new policy against inflation is needed more desperately than ever, the arguments for a pay freeze apply with redoubled force.

Nothing could send a stronger signal of the government's determination to continue bearing down on inflation. Nothing would do more to rebuild financial confidence in Britain. And nothing else would allow the government to protect many important public investment programmes which the Treasury is, as usual, threatening first with its axe.

Treasury officials have presented ministers with a long list of objections, but none of them justify hesitation, or even delay. One

such objection is that pay must be set by "labour market forces" to reflect difficulties of recruitment in different professions and parts of the country. This is a valid principle in the long run, but in the present recession it is a bad joke. A pay policy based on demand and supply of labour would justify not just a freeze, but deep cuts in pay. The relative performance of public and private wages also suggests that this is the right time to freeze pay. In the past two years public sector wages have increased by 5 percentage points more than private wages and government employees have regained all of the ground they lost to the private sector during the Lawson boom.

Ministers' real objection to freezing public pay is political, not economic. It is the fear that a pay freeze would be politically impossible to sell. This is simply nonsense. A pay freeze should be presented as one component of a clear programme for non-inflationary economic recovery. The other key element of this package would be an immediate substantial cut in interest rates — followed by still lower rates as public spending and pay targets were achieved. Of course, a pay freeze without sharp cuts in interest rates would be unpopular; it would also be economically suicidal, since it would simply deepen the recession. But combined with sharply lower interest rates, zero wage growth would be the best possible route to strong non-inflationary growth. The Treasury's real reason for opposing such a plan is the fear that sharp cuts in interest rates would set off another run on sterling. In fact the officials' judgment of market reactions is probably wrong. Interest rate cuts, combined with a pay freeze, would almost certainly strengthen sterling; but that is an question the currency dealers can be left to settle. The government should put its own house in order and let the financial markets worry about the pound.

MOTHER OF CHARITIES

Fifty years ago a group of Oxford pacifists set up a committee to lobby for the lifting of the British blockade of Greece so that relief supplies could be sent to the starving population. A year later the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief had raised £13,000 for the Greek Red Cross in London. Today Oxfam has an annual income of £69 million and supports 2,300 projects in over 70 countries. With professional fund-raisers and a shop in almost every town in the United Kingdom, it commands a budget that makes it a force around the globe. Few charitable organisations can have saved so many desperate people's lives.

Oxfam's very success however is in danger of imperilling not only its role but also the basis of its support. Governments of both host and donor countries are leaving to international charities such as Oxfam much of the responsibility that they themselves once shouldered. These non-governmental organisations are by far the most effective in getting aid down to the villages where they are most needed.

Oxfam, through long experience, knows how suffocating bureaucracy, especially in the Third World, can nullify all good intentions. It can field people with the right combination of compassion, motivation and hard-headed resolve to deal with corruption. These qualities are often far less evident in the salaried civil servants of the United Nations, whose aid agencies are often chaotically organised and tardy. This success however has led to calls from Western

governments to privatise emergency relief, and even development aid, at a time when they are desperately looking for budget cuts. And the struggling recipient countries may be tempted to wait for the conscience of the rich West to do the tasks that they themselves should be attempting.

By its size, Oxfam is already a political force; it is in danger of becoming a political lobby. The row in recent years over its stance on South Africa showed how a partisan position can lead critics to lump all aid agencies together as leftists working in tandem with foreign political movements. Governments should expect Oxfam to speak out for the aid constituency, and insist on higher funding.

The third danger is compassion fatigue. Too many pictures of starving babies and bloated soldiers have induced a well-founded cynicism. People respond still with surprising generosity to the successful Band Aid concerts, believing their money will relieve specific disasters. They are less willing to support the kind of long-term development that Oxfam knows will be more effective in preventing floods in Bangladesh or starvation in Sudan. They also have more faith in smaller, targeted charities, especially those at home. Oxfam has been rigorous in keeping its management slim and its targets in aim. Sadly, its expertise and compassion are needed every bit as much as in 1942 and in many more countries. Lord Jenkins's nomination of Oxfam for this year's Nobel peace prize deserves to succeed.

European issues that face the Tories at Brighton

From Mr Anthony Marlow, MP for Northampton North (Conservative)

Sir, Although deeply embattled over the economy, the prime minister seems to be determined to open his own "Russian" front, by taking on the Conservative party over the Maastricht treaty. Perhaps his commitment to a proper history syllabus arises from the gaps in his own knowledge concerning its lessons.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MARLOW,
House of Commons,
October 3.

From Lieutenant Commander K. C. Adamson, RNR (ret)

Sir, Does the government appreciate that it has only limited freedom to manoeuvre when considering the Maastricht treaty? As Mr Bernard Jenkin reminded us (letter, November 12, 1991), specific assurances were given in the run-up to the EEC referendum: "There will not be a blueprint for a federal Europe, however much some individuals may want to have it" (Edward Heath, House of Commons, February 25, 1970, Hansard, col 1221). And "There is no question of any erosion of essential national sovereignty" (his 1971 white paper Cmnd. 4715, p.8).

In the then prime minister's televised speech to the nation of July 8, 1971, which perhaps should be re-broadcast, nothing suggested that we were setting off on a path towards political and monetary union. To reassure the doubters the then foreign secretary, Alec Douglas-Home, said (report, October 14, 1971):

"What we propose to do is to agree, in certain carefully defined areas of economic activity, to come together with countries of the Community for certain collective economic advantages, and within this carefully defined area we agreed to be guided by certain rules and regulations, which in some cases hold precedence over our laws and regulations."

We have been told by Mr John Redwood, local government minister (report, July 21, 1992) that when political, economic and monetary union is achieved the European union created could fragment into "a Europe of the regions", with England alone being split into something like 11 regions: under the Maastricht treaty the Commission is due to create a committee of European regions.

What we have not been told is how HM the Queen fits into these post-Maastricht structures.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
K. C. ADAMSON,
28 Lock Road,
Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

Political agents

From the Earl of Stockton

Sir, Now that the party conference season is in full swing, and we are also conscious of the arrangements in other countries for funding political parties, may I suggest that the time is now ripe to consider the introduction of public funding for full-time, qualified political agents.

The issue has been widely discussed at constituency level within the Conservative party and an appropriate recommendation has been made to Central Office.

Local party agents, in addition to their organisational roles, are the guardians of electoral law and political good practice. They are uniquely professionally qualified, not only to undertake the educative role in civic responsibility with the public in general but also, more importantly, with young people. There is a disturbing trend of declining participation by younger voters in the electoral process and the political agents are particularly qualified to carry the democratic message into schools and colleges.

Informed choice, which is a prerequisite for full participation in the democratic process, includes an understanding of the rules as much as of the issues and personalities. Payment through the party organisations, which include a number of members of both houses of Parliament, would ensure proper accountability, and appropriate funding would guarantee the highest level of professionalism among the agents.

Yours faithfully,
STOCKTON,
House of Lords.

In other's words

From Mr Henry G. Button

Sir, John Grigg's article about Tennyson's *In Memoriam* (October 3) did not mention the doubts that were once cast upon the authorship of the poem. One of the items in Ronald Knox's *Essays in Satire* (1928) is entitled "The Authorship of *In Memoriam*".

Ronald Knox demonstrated, with a dazzling display of anagrams and cryptograms, that the poem had been written by Queen Victoria in memory of Lord Melbourne, who had died in 1848. Just as Francis Bacon had used the name of William Shakespeare to hide his identity, Queen Victoria had persuaded Tennyson to appear as the author. His reward was to be appointed Poet Laureate in 1850, the very year in which the poem was published.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY G. BUTTON,
7 Amhurst Court,
Grange Road, Cambridge.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

From Professor Lord Beloff, FBA

Sir, I am struck by the fact that neither the prime minister, in announcing the decision to bring the Maastricht treaty bill back to Parliament, nor any of the commentators, seem to have taken the point that we still have a bicameral legislature. To become law the bill must pass all stages in both Houses.

I personally find it hard to believe that the bill will be found acceptable in the House of Lords unless there are major changes in the treaty itself. Either through their personal experience or through the work of the European Communities Committee, members of the House of Lords are by and large better informed on these matters than most members of the House of Commons.

They are much less likely to accept that "subsidiarity" can be an instrument for pushing back the centralising tendencies of Brussels. And they are aware of the extent to which the whole argument is only an attempt to buy off Britain while Herr Kohl and Monsieur Mitterrand pursue their federalist dream — after all they make no secret of it.

Lords do not take kindly to being whipped on constitutional matters. And if the Parliament Act has to be brought into operation it will be too late to stem the anti-federalist tide in all Europe.

Yours faithfully,
BELOFF,
Flat No 9,
22 Lewes Crescent,
Brighton, Sussex,
October 2.

From Sir Peter Hordern, MP for Horsham (Conservative)

Sir, You have not much time for our membership of the exchange-rate mechanism: that much is clear. We have, however, a good deal of experience of life outside the ERM, and it was by no means comfortable.

For years the government did its best to control inflation by monetary means, that is, by using interest rates, but they did not work well. For example, interest rates (base rate) were raised to 13 per cent in November 1988, to 14 per cent in May 1989, and to 15 per cent in October. Yet the largest increase in bank lending to the private sector took place in the third quarter of 1989, undeterred by penal interest rates. By September 1990, inflation had reached 10.9 per cent by which time base rate had been held at 15 per cent for nearly a year.

It was at that stage that Mrs Thatcher took us into the ERM — not, I think, for any particular enthusiasm for Europe, but simply because of the paramount need to master inflation.

Economic nostrums

From Mr Kenneth G. Braidwood

Sir, The letter from Mr Posner (September 28) is a refreshing plea for an end to the malign nostrums and dogmas which are the blight of the British economy, but one sentence perplexed me. "Please may we return to a certain sense of balance, a certain sense of calm, a consensus..."

Return? When, at least over the past 40 years, have successive governments shown such good sense?

In September 1957, writing in *The Observer*, I could preface an article with the sentences: "International currency relations are in a mess and there is a serious threat to world trade... The West German government has bluntly dismissed as 'unfounded' rumours the talk of revaluation of the mark and the British Treasury has firmly denied there is any intention to devalue the pound... efforts of the French to defend the franc..." etc.

The same sentences could have preface similar articles in the mid-1960s, the mid-1970s, the beginning of the 1980s, and now. The details varied but there was one constant factor: the decline of the UK economy and the weakness of sterling.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH G. BRAIDWOOD,
15 Pembroke Court,
Edwards Square, Kensington, W8.

Good cooking

From Mr Paul Somerscales

Sir, Your entertaining leader, "Nouvelle cuisine anglaise" (September 29) on the demolition of the Waterside Inn at Bray is a bit unfair in attributing the renaissance of good cooking in Britain largely to the Roux brothers.

In 1960 Elizabeth David published *French Provincial Cooking*, the fifth of her highly formative cookery books, and Raymond Postgate had already launched his *Good Food Guide*.

Several years before that George Perry Smith, graduate of Oxford and the Sorbonne, had abandoned schoolmastering as a career to purchase a coal-cellar, subsequently ice-cream parlour, that became the legendary Hole in the Wall in Bath (following many of the precepts of Elizabeth David) where you didn't have to be a millionaire to eat and appreciate "the novel notion that food was one of the pleasures of life".

Yours faithfully,
PAUL SOMERSCALES,
Usseau 86230, St Gervais,
Les Trois Clochers, France.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

That decision was supported by all the main political parties, and by industry, and it worked. Inflation has been brought down to 3.6 per cent and interest rates reduced from 15 per cent to 10 per cent within the ERM, and now to 9 per cent outside it.

Two years ago, when we joined the ERM, we could reasonably have expected to have linked sterling to a currency which enjoyed low inflation and low interest rates. We were mistaken.

In its latest monthly review, the Bundesbank warns of the need to bring down price increases to a tolerable level and says that "it would be asking too much of the Bundesbank and its monetary policy if it were left to perform this task on its own".

The ERM has become not so much a means to a single currency, or of controlling inflation, but the price that Europe is expected to pay for German reunification.

That is too high a price. France, Italy, Spain and Ireland have all had to raise interest rates or to leave the ERM, or restore exchange controls. It remains to be seen how long they are prepared to pay for German fiscal irresponsibility.

Sterling has now fallen substantially against the Deutschmark. We shall have to pay a higher price for our imports. In the past, industry has always eroded our competitive export advantage by high wage increases, and inflation has inexorably followed. That is why a stable exchange rate is so important, and why that El Dorado of a freely floating, but always sinking, pound is, in reality, fool's gold.

Yours etc.
PETER HORDERN (Chairman,
Conservative Parliamentary
European Affairs Committee),
House of Commons,
October 3.

From Lord Inglewood, MEP for Cumbria and Lancashire North (European People's Party (Conservative))

Sir, There is much talk of renegotiating the Maastricht treaty, even though it is unclear about what or with whom. Article N2 stipulates that there is to be another intergovernmental conference of the treaty in 1996.

The treaty contains a lot of good things as well as deficiencies. It would be much better to bank the benefits by ratification now rather than risk losing them, a real possibility, by fantasising that it is possible to pick and choose from the treaty like an *a la carte* menu.

Yours truly,
INGLEWOOD,
Hutton-in-the-Forest,
Penrith, Cumbria.

From Mr Donald Gleave

Sir, Mr Michael Posner rightly calls for a "balanced" approach to economic policy. Unfortunately, he proposes that such a revised policy be "debated within a fully numerate framework to be provided by the Treasury".

Those of us — most of the nation — fortunate enough to have escaped being brainwashed by any direct involvement at the Treasury but who have suffered the consequences of its consistent ineptitude over many years would, to put it mildly, find little justification or reassurance in allowing the Treasury to exercise its doubtful judgment, "based on painstakingly argued detail rather than revealed inspiration" any further in these matters.

The sooner tunnel vision and discredited models are replaced by vision, pragmatism and inspired judgment based on the commitment to cultivate, at every opportunity, the business base of the country, the better. The strength of the currency will be based on the success of the economy alone — not misguided notions of what it "ought" to be.

Yours faithfully,
D. GLEAVE,
34 Guilford Road,
Stoneygate, Leicester.

Business letters, page 21

Future of Radio 4

From Mr Adam Western

Sir, As an Englishman in Brussels, I share Christopher Shaw's appreciation of Radio 4 (letter, October 3). I do not believe, however, that the BBC's broadcasting policy should be influenced by people who, like me, neither contribute to its funding nor live in the British Isles.

I choose to live and work abroad and consider it a privilege to do so. Among the inevitable sacrifices involved in the expatriate life is not to expect things at home to be run in our interests. Radio 4 should be broadcast for those who pay for it, not for those who have left Britain and stopped paying the BBC's TV licence fee.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM WESTERN,
111 Avenue de l'Armée,
1040 Brussels.

From Miss Katharine Butler

Sir, If the BBC is determined to run a programme of non-stop news and speculation, why not put this on FM and leave Radio 4 listeners the long wave which they can all hear?

Yours faithfully,
KATHARINE BUTLER,
3 Hardy Road, Warcham, Dorset.

Helping hand on air crash victims

From Mr Peter Martin

Sir, The responsibility for search and rescue after an aircraft accident — in Amsterdam, Kathmandu or elsewhere — and the subsequent investigation and identification of victims falls squarely on the state of occurrence. This is an inevitable result of the sovereignty rules of the Chicago Convention of 1944. Some states are small and need help.

The French, for the first time, successfully used DNA techniques to identify all the victims of the Mont St Odile accident in January 1992. Such techniques are expensive, not least if the victims come from many countries since, obviously, genetic samples must be taken from relatives as well as from the bodies of victims. Nevertheless, according to all reports, the techniques used in France worked to perfection.

Could not the French, generously, offer help to the Nepalese in the case involving last week's Airbus crash on the approach to Kathmandu airport? The new techniques would avert some of the distressing circumstances you report daily.

Aircraft accidents are like war: the fog of confusion is dense and slow to lift. With careful diplomacy, new techniques and attitudes might begin to penetrate.

Yours truly,
PETER MARTIN,
Frere Cholmeley (Solicitors),
4 John Carpenter Street, EC4,
October 5.

Women priests

From Mrs Caroline Davis

Sir, Your headline of October 2, "Women in churches threaten reprisals", is news to me. The Movement for the Ordination of Women (MOW) is not in the business of threats and has always behaved with charity as the archbishops are urging.

Individual members of MOW are at liberty to make any suggestion they like. The "newsletter" quoted was a letter sent to MOW members in one particular diocese by the MOW chair in that diocese, some of whose members may well feel that is the right thing for them at this time.

However, national MOW has no "plans for a mass work-to-rule". We don't need to. We fully expect the General Synod to vote in favour of women priests when it meets in November.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE DAVIS
(Executive Secretary),
Movement for the Ordination
of Women,
Napier Hall, Hide Place, SW1.

From Mrs Margaret Orr Deas

Sir, The newsletter quoted by Ruth Gledhill was written by me, as Chair of the London branch of the Movement for the Ordination of Women, to London members of MOW, as a result of two London meetings.

The recent statement from the two archbishops does not take into account the sense of exclusion felt by women — an exclusion compounded by the fact that only 20 places will be available in the public gallery of the General Synod when the synod takes the final vote on an ordination of women to the priesthood.

The archbishops may hope, but cannot expect, women to continue to behave charitably and quietly if the ordination of women is delayed. They should feel a sense of shame — perhaps they do — that I am unable to recommend the church I grew up in to my three daughters.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET ORR DEAS,
45 Northumberland Place, W2.

From Prebendary Rodney Schofield

Sir, The MOW seems curiously behind the times. Flower-arranging, church-cleaning, brass-polishing and the like have for a number of years in this parish been open to both sexes alike. Perhaps this is unusual, but if so I shall be delighted to find myself among the avant-garde.

Yours sincerely,
RODNEY SCHOFIELD,
West Monkton Rectory,
Taunton, Somerset.

Enter Brer Peter

From Miss Kathleen M. Slack

Sir, You report (September 29) Mr Major's advice to Lord Tebbit to follow Brer Rabbit's habit of hiding under the cabbage leaves when he did not know which way to go. But it was Peter, not Brer Rabbit, who acted thus. Clearly, our leaders are as confused about rabbits as they are about Maastricht.

Yours faithfully,
KATHLEEN M. SLACK,
17 Assmuns Hill, NW11.

From Sir Roger Tomkys

Sir, Is it possible that Lord Tebbit's apparent failure to distinguish between Brer and Peter Rabbit conceals a subtle message: that if the ERM provides the cover of cabbage leaves, Mr Major might find Brer Rabbit's briar patch more comfortable?

Yours faithfully,
ROGER TOMKYS,
The Master's Lodge,
Pembroke College, Cambridge.

OBITUARIES

DOROTHY GALTON

Dorothy Galton, former secretary to the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University of London, and the author of several works on beekeeping, died on August 27 aged 90. She was born on October 14, 1901.

IT IS ironic that the young woman who decided in her twenties that university was not for her, actually devoted the 33 years of her working life to advancing the development of Slavonic studies in the University of London. Dorothy Galton's lifelong fascination with Russia and strong socialist views stemmed from her background: her father was secretary to Sydney and Beatrice Webb and to the Fabian Society. After attending secondary school at Wood Green, she went to Bedford College, but after a few months, disappointed, decided to leave. From then on she educated herself.

She worked for some time in Transport House and then for Count Mihály Károlyi, the exiled socialist president of Hungary, and his wife Catherine, the daughter of Izvolsky, the Tsar's last ambassador in Paris. She went with them to France and her first encounter with aristocracy undoubtedly left a mark on her taste for the good things of life.

Back in London, she became, in 1928, secretary to the leading expert on Russia, Professor Sir Bernard Pares at the School of Slavonic Studies, at that time still a department of King's College where it had been founded in 1915. A great Russophile, he tried for years to convince a sceptical academic community that Russian and East European studies deserved a place in the curriculum of the university. Dorothy Galton to a great extent complemented on a practical level his aspirations and her reminiscences of the early heroic days of the school and its colourful and temperamental members make for hilarious reading. One of the most interesting people she was on good terms with was Prince D. S. Minsky, a leading emigre literary critic and historian of Russian literature who taught at the university until 1932, when he returned to the Soviet Union. He was arrested there in 1937 and subsequently died in a prison camp at the

could effectively run academic institutions. At the onset of the war, part of the school had to be evacuated to Oxford, and Galton acted as a link between London and Oxford. In London, she had to deal with the consequences of a direct hit on the central university precinct in which all the school's records were destroyed. She negotiated temporary premises, salvaged whatever was possible and, against all odds, organised, in August 1941, a summer school in Oxford, attended by some 80 students. In 1945, at the invitation of the Rockefeller Foundation, she visited several American universities for discussions about the future of Slavonic studies. Once back, she supervised the move to new premises and attended to the problems, facing the reorganization of the school from a small institution to a widely recognised centre of Slavonic studies.

When after the war her work became more routine, she distanced herself somewhat from the university. But generations of post-war students, who remember her as a somewhat formidable and rather autocratic figure, remember her also as the kindest of persons, always ready to help with practical matters. She went with Pares to Moscow when he was too old to face the journey alone and proved especially useful taking up all the connections which he was able to establish there in 1935-36.

Dorothy Galton retired in 1961 and when the retirement present was wheeled into a lecture hall, the majority of Slavists present were baffled. Not many of them had ever seen a honey extractor. Dorothy Galton's interest in beekeeping dated back to 1954, but after a few years of practical involvement she devoted her time to research into beekeeping in Russia — thus combining two of her major interests — and, in 1971, published a *Survey of a Thousand Years of Beekeeping in Russia*. Ten years later, she broadened her field, publishing *The Bee-Hive: An Enquiry into its Origins and History*, in which she postulated a widespread "civilisation of the bee", which helped to form the languages of Eurasia from about 10,000 BC or earlier. In recent years she was engaged in writing her third book on the subject, *Bees, Honey and Beeswax in Early Historical Times*, and only when she finished it did she allow herself to be allowed herself to die. Dorothy Galton's long retirement years were not only filled with swarms of bees. She devoted them to the cultivation of her numerous friends, taught English at the University of Budapest, travelled to Russia, distributed her few possessions and, with her customary zeal, did a great amount of voluntary work in Norfolk, especially for the local Labour Party and Labour youth associations. She always deplored the lack of political awareness and social conscience in the young. When nearly 90, she had to cope with practical problems she wasn't prepared for. This lifelong socialist who disregarded possessions, never owned a home of her own and never had a bank account because she considered interest immoral, unexpectedly inherited a house and some means, and had to learn to manage property.

In June, aware that she was terminally ill, she gave a spirited interview to the BBC, which will be broadcast next year.

Even in her death, she was true to her life, donating her body to research.



age of 48. Dorothy Galton remained in touch with him until his arrest. She had befriended him in London when he was becoming a communist and his relations with Pares were increasingly strained, and she later saw him several times in Moscow. In 1932, the school was established as an independent university institute. Dorothy Galton became secretary to the school, a post she held until her retirement in 1961. With increased responsibilities and autonomy, she flourished. She was one of those formidable women of her generation who, without formal education,

JEAN AURENCHE



Gérard Philipe and Micheline Presle in *Le Diable au corps*, scripted by Jean Aurenche and Pierre Bost

Jean Aurenche, French screenwriter, whose career in the cinema spanned five decades, died on September 29 aged 88. He was born in Pierrelatte, southern France, on September 11, 1904.

CONSIDER the French cinema from the golden age and you see first the faces of Arletty, Raimu, Jean Gabin and Gérard Philipe, or the magic landscapes of smoky streets, rooftops and neighbourhood bars created by directors and set designers.

But the spell French cinema cast, during the 1930s and 1940s especially, would be nothing without the words those on screen spoke. These were Jean Aurenche's contribution: with his regular collaborator Pierre Bost, he ensured the high literary quality of a remarkable number of famous films. Over the years he worked repeatedly with directors Claude Autant-Lara, René Clément and Jean Delannoy: film-makers not in the vanguard of style, but sensitive craftsmen who got the job done.

Aurenche and Bost's speciality was the adaptation of novels for the screen. They adapted, among others, works by André Gide (*La Symphonie pastorale*), Raymond Radiguet (*Le Diable au corps*), Colette (*Le Blé en herbe*), Stendhal (*Le Rouge et le Noir*) and Zola (*Gervaise*). Yet they were far from being characterless technicians: their first collaboration, Autant-Lara's *Docteur Mystère* (1943), displayed an idiosyncratic style perfectly suited to this misanthropic tale of twisted relationships. They could also be anti-authoritarian: Aurenche's politics were socialist, and his

Jesuit upbringing marked him with an anti-Catholic bias that appeared, for instance, in the delightful black comedy *L'Auberge rouge* (1951) in which François Rosay despatched all those who came to the inn in question until she encountered a monk, played by Fernandel.

Jean Aurenche entered cinema through advertising; the agency he worked for also employed Jean Anouilh and Simone Signoret's father. By 1933 he was directing commercials and short documentaries; three years later, he managed his first feature credit on a Raimu comedy, *Vous n'avez rien à déclarer?* On other early films he worked with Anouilh and Jacques Prévert. Then in 1938, he teamed with Henri Jeanson for Marcel Carné's *Hôtel du Nord*, supplying memorable dialogue for the household of murderers, doomed lovers and others who sheltered inside Alexandre Trauner's wonderfully atmospheric sets.

But it was not until Aurenche joined forces with Bost and Autant-Lara in 1943 that his career truly took off. "I like working in collaboration because I like people," he told interviewers in 1975; he certainly relished a give-and-take atmosphere. Aurenche generally supplied the scenario's structure. Bost concentrated more on the dialogue.

Together they distilled their subject-matter with clarity and grace. *Le Diable au corps* (1947), directed by Autant-Lara, successfully teased out the conflicting emotions in Radiguet's story of blind love and infidelity during the first world war, with which the 25-year-old Gérard Philipe attained true stardom. Other

achievements included a dashing rendition of Feydeau's farce *Occupe-toi d'Amélie* (1949), and René Clément's *Les Jeux interdits* (1952), a poignant account of two children's wartime games.

Later in the Fifties, the tide of fashion turned against Aurenche and Bost's penchant for intricately crafted, literary cinema: François Truffaut launched a famous, intemperate attack on their work in the pages of *Cahiers du Cinéma*. Their reputations declined further during the Sixties as the New Wave directors, Truffaut included, shattered the precepts of the well-made film. It took another younger critic-turned-director, Bertrand Tavernier, more sensitive to mainstream traditions, to bring Aurenche back into the limelight.

In 1973, after some idle years, the veteran pair applied their skills to *L'Héritage de Saint Paul*. Tavernier's mesmerising first feature, based on Simonon's novel about a watchmaker with a son on the run, Aurenche also collaborated on its successor, the historical adventure *Que la Fête commence* (1975), and rejoined Bost for Tavernier's grim period tale *Le Juge et l'assassin* (1976).

Aurenche's rejuvenated career continued unabated. His delight in mankind's darker side surfaced again in Tavernier's *Coup de torchon* (1981), a quirky study of an indolent cop, based on a Jim Thompson novel. He also undertook one of the greatest challenges any literary adaptor could wish for — whittling down Proust to screen size — though his name was absent from the credits when Volker Schlöndorff's *Un Amour de Swann* finally appeared in 1984.

WILLIAM SEBRELL

William Henry Sebrell Jr., a pioneer in vitamin research whose work led to radical improvements in American health during the 1930s, died in Pompano Beach, Florida, on September 29 aged 91. He was born in Portsmouth, Virginia, on September 11, 1901.

PELLAGRA, beriberi and similar diseases caused by vitamin deficiencies are almost forgotten now. But in the years between the first and second world wars, when Sebrell was an official with the United States public health service and conducting research into the vitamin B complex, they were causing the deaths of thousands in

America and around the world. Sebrell, who was continuing work begun by his mentor at the University of Virginia, Dr Joseph Goldberger, promoted the enrichment of flour and bread with niacin, thiamine and riboflavin.

As a result, pellagra and beriberi were virtually wiped out in the industrialised world. Sebrell became an international authority on nutrition, advising the League of Nations and later the United Nations. During the second world war he made strategic recommendations for the diet of civilian workers and for rationing for survivors in western Europe.

In 1950 Sebrell became director of the National Institute of Health and Assistant Surgeon General, posts that he held until 1955. It was a period of rapid expansion for the NIH and Sebrell saw it grow into the world's largest medical research agency.

Under his leadership, the institute opened a \$64 million clinical centre in Bethesda, Maryland, with 500 beds and 1,100 laboratories. Such a complex constituted a breakthrough in combining clinical and laboratory research. When modern medicine began to control infectious diseases, he focused the agency's attention on cancer, heart disease and other chronic illnesses.

By this time Sebrell had shifted his attention from dietary deficiencies to the dangers of over-eating, proclaiming in 1952 that obesity had become America's "No 1 nutrition problem". One in four of the population, he said, was overweight.

After a spell at Columbia University, where he developed the Institute of Human Nutrition, he became the first medical director of Weight-watchers International in 1971. Eight years later he retired from that post and was made director of the Weight-watchers Foundation.

Sebrell, who published some 300 papers and was co-editor of a five-volume reference work on vitamins, was twice widowed. He is survived by his third wife, Helena, one son, one daughter and five grandchildren.

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APPRECIATIONS

Professor Ernest Stahl

YOUR obituary of my old tutor Ernest Stahl (September 23), which does justice to his scholarly achievements, should perhaps have included some reference to the central role of Christ Church in his long career at Oxford. It became his academic home and he remained devoted to it until his death. He first taught its undergraduates, among others, on a freelance tutorial basis during his period as university lecturer.

Then in 1945, when he became Reader, Christ Church made him an official Student and Tutor in German, a post in which, thanks to his unstinting support, I succeeded him when he moved to Queen's. As an undergraduate of the House I had been taught by him in the early years. I recall hurrying with my weekly essays to his flat at the corner of King Edward Street and Oriel Square: it was on an upper floor, reached by an external iron stairway enclosed in glass, a remnant from the Crystal Palace. He had rented it from Oriel since 1935; it was next door to Christ Church, and he and his wife Kathleen, whom he had met in the early Oxford days, remained in it until his retirement in 1970.

In those post-war Christ Church years under Dean Lowe, Dean Simpson and later Dean Chadwick, he made innumerable new friends there and renewed old acquaintances such as that with Wystan Auden, who lived for three terms at his college while he was Professor of Poetry in the 1950s. Ernest loved to spend his evenings in the senior common room, where the company stimulated and nourished him; his fellow-members were entertained by his totally unalloyed wit, and returned his



warm affection. He even hesitated to accept the Taylor Professorship of German in 1959, since it would entail formal attachment to another college; but Christ Church made him a Student Emeritus in the following year, so that although no longer a tutor or member of the governing body, he was able to continue his social life there as before.

This was just as well, for in the 1960s his new college, Queen's, was passing through a period of unhappy turbulence to which Ernest's gentle and peaceable ways were uncongenial; one of the fellows there once told me dismissively "We at Queen's think of Stahl as really a Christ Church man" — a remark which he would certainly have regarded as an unintended compliment. Of the Christ Church undergraduates, too, he said to me by way of advice: "You'll find they're very nice — surprisingly nice;" and "Really the main thing, you know, is just to get them actually to read the texts." I never forgot this last precept; though if I had been able to learn from Ernest as much of his patience and kindness towards pupils as I did about classical German literature, it would have stood me in better stead.

David Luke

Colonel Fred Tilston, VC

YOUR fine obituary (September 28) of this brave man leaves little more to say. But as his commanding officer during the Caen-Palaise battles I had a special insight into his abilities and character.

Not only in physical sense was he a giant of a man but in character and Christian qualities as well.

Firm, a born leader, with a strong devotion to duty, he had a keen understanding of human nature and a wonderful sense of humour.

These qualities he exercised with modesty, on the battle-



field and in civilian life.

Peter W. Bennett

Baroness Phillips

IN YOUR obituary of Baroness Phillips (August 17), the writer rightly says that her "cheerful turquoise, pink or yellow dresses... brought a

vivid splash of colour into the Chamber". What he does not say is that she was an accomplished dressmaker and found time, in spite of all her other commitments, to make many of those dresses herself.

Lady Saltoun

OCT 6 ON THIS DAY 1884

These nurses were bound for foreign parts at a critical time in Anglo-Sudanese affairs. Lord Wolseley was in command of the expedition which, it was hoped, would see the relief of General Gordon besieged in Khartoum. The report contains some interesting news about the changes in the "Army Hospital Corps".

THE NILE EXPEDITION. Four lady-nurses have been selected to proceed to Egypt for service with the Army Medical Department in the Nile Expedition. They are Nursing Sisters E.M. Crump, S.F. Hart, C. Ferguson and J.M.C. Baker and they will sail in the steamship *Cameo* on Wednesday. The two first-named are on the staff of the Herbert Hospital at Shooters-hill and have been for some time under Miss Coullif, lady superintendent and the other two come from the Guards' Hospital at Westminster.

They will be distributed among the hospitals which are now being established by Lord Wolseley at Wady Halfa and other stations on the Nile, and although they are few in proportion to the number of male nurses who will have to be employed, they will undoubtedly have an influence for good such as only the gender sex can exercise in the sick chamber. In all the military hospitals at home these devoted women work side by side with the soldier orderlies of the Hospital Corps, and many of them have seen active service abroad, as shown by the ribbons they wear for the last campaign in Egypt, together, in many instances, with the Royal Order of the Red Cross.

All are either spinsters or widows, and none are admitted to the position of lady-nurse until after a trying probation. A medical officer will accompany them

to Egypt, probably Surgeon-Major F.A. Dawy, M.D., who has been for some time at the Auxiliary Hospital, Woolwich; and arrangements have been made for their comfort on board.

In the same ship will be conveyed the wives and families of certain warrant officers now in Egypt. The privilege of allowing the warrant officers to have their families with them in Egypt has been cancelled after much hesitation, as it was uncertain how soon the army of occupation might be recalled, and as the women and children were probably better off in England than they will be in Cairo or Alexandria, where provisions are dearer and where they will lose the special allowances for lodging and sustenance which they are now receiving. In no cases will the wives and children of the rank and file be permitted to go at the public expense, at least for the present. The *Cameo* is, if necessary, to remain at Alexandria for the use of the medical department, which is about to undergo some radical changes. The very name of "Army Hospital Corps" is to be abolished, and the whole of the department, at present bearing divers appellations, will be reorganised under the title of the "Army Medical Service". The officers, who now enjoy the privilege of wearing red tunics, will have a blue uniform like the non-commissioned officers and men, and many of those who have just gone to Egypt, anticipating the change, have left their full-dress finery behind, taking only their patrol jackets of blue cloth and a rougher raiment of blue serge for the work of the campaign. It is hoped that the Royal Warrant which is to effect these alterations will likewise prescribe some system of preserving the local union of the hospital detachments when they are sent abroad, and bring about some other improvements in practice which have long been demanded. It was reported at the Admiralty on Saturday that the Nile had been despatched, the last having been taken in the *Crosshill*, *Osmani*, and *Laconia*.

City honours naval victor

THE career of Admiral Duncan, victor of the Battle of Camperdown, is to be celebrated in Dundee on the bicentennial of his victory over the Dutch navy (Kerry Gill writes).

Known as "The Admiral's Project 97", the occasion will attempt to inform the public about one of the city's most illustrious sons who, in recent years, has become almost forgotten. Backed by Adult Community Training and Scottish Enterprise Tayside, the project hopes to take on up to 15 unemployed people who will help to set up exhibitions in Dundee's docklands area.

A biography of Admiral Duncan and an account of the battle from both sides' views are also to be published.

University news

Oxford Professor Jack Hayward, Professor of Politics at Hull University, to be the first Director of the European Studies Institute and the Centre for European Politics, Economics, and Society.

Remains of Roman child grave found

By NORMAN HAMMOND

A REMARKABLE Roman burial of a baby accompanied by eight exotic statuettes, has been found just off Ermine Street, the main Roman road from Londinium to Lindum (Lincoln). Interred in a lead-lined coffin, the child had a skull deformed by hydrocephalus (water on the brain), and had died aged ten months.

The burial, at Arrington, near Cambridge, was found when a pipeline trench was cut through the area. It seems to have been placed away from settlement, although a Roman service area lies a short distance to the south, where Ermine Street joins with the road from Durolopon (Cambridge). At 10 feet below ground, it was also surprising, because of the striking nature of the affliction which had killed the child.

A collection of pottery statuettes lay on top of the coffin,

and allowed it to be dated to AD 160-190. All were exotics, imported from Gaul or Germany, and may have been ritual accompaniments to burial rather than toys. Two were of rams, one a bullcock, and two of children.

Of the other three, one was a seated figure removing a thorn from his foot, a well-known motif, and another an enigmatic bearded man wearing a cloak and Phrygian cap. The last was a "mother-goddess" figurine, made in Germany and wearing a bulbous head and a Phrygian cap. This is part of a revelation a basket of fruit, probably pomegranates or apples, a symbol of life and renewal in Christian as well as pagan iconography. A crescent-moon pendant may have the same significance, experts believe.

Source: *Current Archaeology* 130: 420-2.

Marshall scholarships

The Marshall Aid Commemorative Commission announces the award of British Marshall scholarships tenable at the institutions named for two years from this month, to the following:

C.A. Baldwin of Kansas State Univ., at Trinity Coll., Camb. (Chemical Engineering); Christy D. Cannon of Harvard Univ., at Nuffield Coll., Oxford (Comparative Social Research); J.E. Clancy of Coll. of the Holy Cross, at the Univ. of Edinburgh (Developmental Neurobiology); Monica E. Copeland of the Univ. of Illinois, at the Univ. of Sussex (Politics).

A.P. Dinwiddie of the Univ. of Chicago, at New Coll., Oxford (English Literature); Kimberly D. Fisher, of the State Univ. of Arizona, at the Univ. of Essex (Sociology of Gender); S.E. Fredrickson of Purdue Univ., at the Queen's Coll., Oxford (Engineering Science); Tobia M. Friedman, of Brooklyn Coll., City Univ. of New York, at Exeter Coll., Oxford (History and English); L.D. Gels of Columbia Univ., at Clare Coll., Camb. (Theoretical Chemistry); J.E. Grier of Harvard Univ., at Brunel Univ., Oxford (International Relations); N.M. Goshch of Columbia and Harvard Universities, at Univ. Coll., Oxford (Law); N.E. Grover of the Univ. of California at Los Angeles, at Christ Church, Oxford (English Literature); Elizabeth Harmer of Wellesley Coll., at Kings Coll., Camb. (Social and Political Theory); J.E. Hopt of Princeton Univ., at the Univ. of Durham (Astronomy); Claire K. Kaneshiro, of the Univ. of California at Berkeley, at Merton Coll., Oxford (Modern History); F.J. Koenen of the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, at Imperial Coll., London (Systems Engineering); G.D. Landweber, of Princeton Univ., at Trinity Coll., Camb. (Economics); J. Lerner of Stanford Univ., at the Univ. of York (Health Economics); Caroline E.

Levine of Princeton Univ., at Birbeck Coll., London (English Literature); A.W. Lewis of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, at Imperial Coll., London (Management Studies); J. Leach of Northwestern Univ., at Clare Coll., Camb. (Modern History).

M.R. McNulty of Davidson Coll. and Harvard Univ., at Worcester Coll., Oxford (Economics); T.J. McHale of Loyola Coll., at the Univ. of Durham (Modern Middle Eastern Studies); D.B. Massey of Yale Univ., at Magdalen Coll., Oxford (International Relations); Melissa K. Melby, of Reed Coll., at St. John's Coll., Camb. (Biochemistry); Ann M. Metcalf, of Boston Univ., at Heriott-Watt Univ., Edinburgh (Mathematics); M.F. Jansz, of Vanderbilt Univ., at the Univ. of Edinburgh (Celtic Studies); D.E. Sparrow, of the Univ. of Illinois, at the Royal Northern Coll. of Music, Manchester (Performance Studies); K.C. Sivovink, of Harvard Univ., at Balliol Coll., Oxford (Comparative Social Research); J.P. Sydow, of the Univ. of Virginia, at the Univ. of Strathclyde (Physics); M.F. Theune of Harvard Coll., at Oriel Coll., Oxford (Philosophy and Theology); M.R. Tooz, of Georgetown Univ., at Magdalen Coll., Oxford (Philosophy); K.T. Tuschke, of the Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London (West African Languages).

Diana C. Ulrich, Ohio State Univ., at Pembroke Coll., Oxford (Engineering); Rebecca L. Walkowitz, Harvard Univ., at Sussex Univ. (English Literature); M.M. Wedegar, Stanford Univ., at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, London (Soviet and E. European Studies); C.M. Wierzyński, Mass Inst. of Technology, at Trinity Coll., Camb. (Economics); Virginia E. Wright, of Emory Univ., at Trinity Coll., Camb. (Maths).

Appointments

Captain John Younger to be Vice Lord-Lieutenant for Borders Region (District of Tweeddale).

Legal: Mr Michael Rodney Barr to be a Circuit Judge assigned to the Wales and Chester circuit.

Mr Paul Tain to be a Provincial Stipendiary Magistrate for the East and West Sussex commission areas, based at Brighton.

Mr Peter Rogers to be a Taxing Master of the Supreme Court.

Miss Gayle Hallow, Mr Gerald Clifton and Mr Simon Greenfell to be Circuit Judges, Miss Hallow assigned to the south eastern circuit, Mr Clifton to the northern, and Mr Greenfell to the north eastern.

Mr Edward Jacobs to be a full-time Chairman of Social Security Appeal Tribunals, Medical Appeal Tribunals and Disability Appeal Tribunals in Wales and the South West region.

Mr Justice Brookie and Judge Summer to join the Main Board of the Judicial Studies Board.

£2,000 rod

A 10ft fly rod belonging to Neville Chamberlain sold for £1,980 to a private buyer at an auction of fishing equipment by Angling Auctions in Hammersmith, west London.

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

Daniel Rosenthal, editor of *Varsity*, said that that the continuing dominance of a select group of schools would concern those who were striving to dispel the elitist stereotype. "Until the colleges become more willing to reveal independent figures on their state to private school ratios, no accurate picture of the changing face of the university

The Times top ten state schools	
Royal Grammar, High Wycombe	22 (1)
Chelmsford County High	8 (10)
Colchester County High	7 (8)
Kendrick School, Reading	6 (7)
Newstead Wood, Orpington	5 (8)
Hesmerne Boys, Barnet	4 (5)
Pate's Grammar, Cheltenham	3 (6)
Judd School, Tonbridge	2 (2)
Henrietta Barnett, N London	1 (9)
Skipton Girls High	0 (4)

Source: Varsity survey
 Figures in brackets position in The Times
 A-level league



There were fears that the bodies of some victims might never be recovered, as in the Lockerbie disaster when some simply vaporised in the intense heat.

Eric Smeenk, a psychologist and welfare officer for the Salvation Army said none of those survived had panicked at the time. "Perhaps they were too deeply shocked to react in anything other than a calm manner, but I like to think that they were displaying true courage."

lives of the crash. Hospitals called in extra staff and prepared for heavy casualties as traffic police from other parts of the country arrived to keep the roads clear. He said that he had been very pleased with the operation.

Insurers face claims of more than £1 00 million as a result of the loss of the and the damage and loss of life caused on the ground. The aircraft was insured for \$62 million (£36 million) through the broking firm Alexander Howden. The cover was led by the Ariel syndicate at Lloyd's and the British Insurers Group in the London company market. It

The largest component of the overall loss is likely to comprise third-party liability claims from people injured or bereaved. Insurers generally expect smaller payouts when European victims are involved because they tend to be less litigious than Americans. However, the average payout could easily reach £250,000, about half the typical payout for an American death. Injury claims and damage to property could push the total bill past £100 million. Until liability is established it will not be known which set of insurers will bear the cost of the claims.

The old empire is gradually fading away from the honours list. Canada bowed out soon after the end of the last war. New Zealand still hangs in there and even secured a knighthood for a former Labour premier, Geoffrey Palmer. Otherwise, it is the little countries of the Commonwealth to whom the Queen is still head of state who naturally submit names twice a year. Australians need not, however, be too despondent. Honorary British knighthoods are still available. But you cannot stroll into a bar in Alice, order a stubbie, and call yourself Sir.

Dr Christine Lee, director of the haemophilia centre at the Royal Free Hospital, north-west London, who has 100 patients with HIV receiving the high-purity product, paid for partly with Aids funds, said the ruling would create problems for patients. "Some of the cost comes out of Aids moneys and when we start bidding for next year's budget I suspect we will run into problems."

[illegible]

Concise Crossword, page 9
Life & Times section.

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1990

Double blow as pound and equities plunge

103-point fall wipes £19bn off shares

By MICHAEL CLARK, STOCK MARKET CORRESPONDENT

MORE than £19 billion was wiped from the value of Britain's publicly quoted companies as the stock market suffered its biggest one-day fall in almost five years. The drop came as the pound touched a new low against the mark and Wall Street plunged by 100 points just after the opening, while European bourses also fell sharply.

The FT-SE 100 index closed at its lowest for the day, down 103.4 at 2,446.3, the biggest one-day fall since October 26, 1987, when share prices continued to reel in the wake of Black Monday. The fall eclipsed the loss of 80.5 recorded on Red Monday, after the abortive Soviet coup to overthrow President Gorbachev.

City investors are becoming increasingly alarmed about the deteriorating economy and the apparent lack of a workable economic policy, which is expected to be the focus of attention at this week's Conservative party conference.

Their fears were heightened by the pound's continuing slide against the mark on the foreign exchanges, where it briefly touched DM2.37.

Sterling's weakness has made the prospect of another cut in bank base rates even more remote and in some brokers' offices last night there was talk that the government may even be forced to reverse the recent 1 point reduction to 9 per cent in base rates in order to support the ailing currency.

But some fund managers are beginning to doubt that a 1 percentage point cut in interest rates will be enough to pull the economy clear of recession.

"They are quick to point out that the US Federal Reserve has pursued a policy of low interest rates for the past 18 months and that the American economy remains in the grip of recession."

Indeed, prices in London were marked lower from the outset as fund managers reacted on Friday's fall in the Dow Jones average on Wall Street — its biggest for six months — as the latest economic statistics indicated that the American economy was still deep in recession.

The slide in London accelerated during the afternoon with the Dow Jones average falling more than 100 points in early trading. Conditions were made worse by a breakdown in Seaq, the Stock Exchange's computerised

trading system, because of a hardware fault. This meant that many traders in the City were left without their trading screens and had to deal via the telephone system without any indication of price movements elsewhere.

As a result, the Stock Exchange quickly announced through its Topic news service that all prices quoted on the trading screens were indicative.

There were losses across the board, but it was leading shares that led the way down, with double figure losses among many of the top 100 companies. Falls were recorded in ICI 29p to £11.70, Glaxo 36p to 73p, Rank Organisation 41p to 535p, BOC Group 22p to 673p and Commercial Union 34p to 497p.

Despite the falls, sellers were thin on the ground. The prompt action by market-makers made it difficult for anyone wanting to unload stock in the market-place. Trading conditions were thin and this was reflected in low turnover levels, with only 477 million shares changing hands.

Market-makers have been attempting to go long of stock since the devaluation of the pound last month in the belief that a policy of lower interest rates will lift the economy out of recession. Having achieved their goal, they are reluctant to see the market flooded with unwanted stock.

One institution added to the City's gloom by selling the index heavily on the financial futures market. Dealers said this indicated that it was

taking a bearish view of prospects for the equity market over the next few months.

Government securities also had a volatile day, suffering heavy losses in early trading. The Long Gilt was down more than £2 on the futures market before rallying to halve the fall by the close. Conventional bonds also suffered falls of up to £1 but closed off the bottom as investors switched out of the equity market and traders found themselves being squeezed in the short sterling contract.

Gold and other precious metals attracted late interest as the yesterday's fall in world-wide equity markets accelerated.

In London, gold closed \$2 higher at \$350.50, and silver rose by 3 cents to 378 cents an ounce.

Pound falls below DM2.37

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE pound dropped more than 7 pennings to another record low of DM2.3696.

As sterling tumbled, Paul Chertkow, head of global currency strategy at UBS Phillips & Drew, said it was in "free fall", which he attributed to the absence of credible government policy.

Treasury efforts to calm the markets in the face of sterling's decline came after City analysts indicated growing alarm about the possibility of the pound falling further. The latest tumble meant the pound had fallen almost 20 per cent from its central rate of DM2.95 in the ERM. At the Bank's 4pm close it stood at DM2.3930, down about 4 pennings from Friday.

It slipped only slightly against the falling dollar, but dropped to a low of 79.7 on its trade-weighted index. The index ended at 80.6, down 0.5 since Friday.

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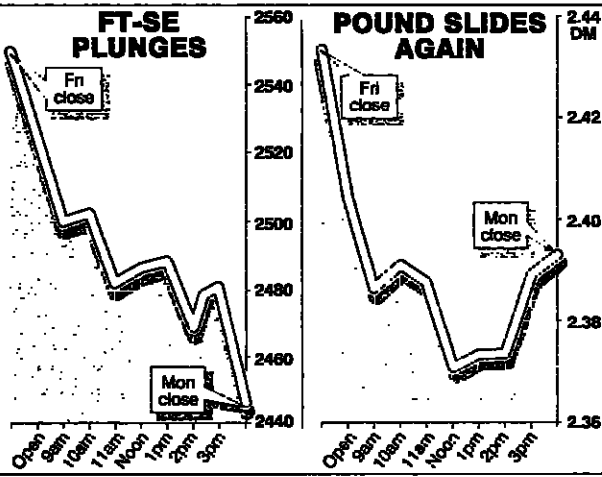
appearance before a Committee select committee on Monday to elaborate on policy.

In the money markets the mood was commanded by the fall of the pound. The key three-month lending rate firmed slightly to 9½ per cent, while one-month money moved ahead to 9¼ per cent, reflecting expectations of an early half point rise in the base rate, now at 9 per cent.

Speculation that American interest rates are about to be cut sent the dollar tumbling against the mark, which firmed on Friday's Bundesbank decision not to lower German rates. The dollar dipped below DM1.40 at one point before rallying.

The lira remained under pressure which pushed it close to 1,000 to the mark. Inside the ERM, tension was heightened by the rising mark. The punt, the peseta and the escudo remained in danger with dealers expecting early realignment. Central bank intervention was seen in support of the punt, which ended at a whisker off its ERM floor.

Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank vice-president, said yesterday that market tensions could have been prevented if European nations had not refused to realign. He said the "real reasons for the recent turbulence lie... in the exchange-rate structures which had become unrealistic due to economic divergences".



Wall Street plunges 100 points

FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT

WALL Street plunged more than 100 points in the opening hours of trading yesterday, its biggest one-day fall for almost a year. The movement by fund managers from shares to bonds was described as a "stampede".

The initial fall was halted just after lunchtime when bargain hunters moved in. Investors fled the market throughout the morning, unnerved by poor September employment figures, fears over third-quarter profits and renewed uncertainty over the US election.

The fall followed a 54-point drop in the index of America's 30 biggest blue-chip companies on Friday, after expectations of a further cut in interest rates were disappointed. The rate might be cut further today after a meeting

of the Federal Reserve Board. David Shulman, equity strategist at Salomon Brothers, said: "People are throwing in the towel on the [US] economy today." He said continued uncertainty in Europe and continued weakness of the US September employment figures had combined to trigger the heavy sell-off.

Rama Krishna, chief investment strategist with First Boston, has urged clients to raise cash and cut the proportion of their investments in equities from 65 per cent to 40 per cent. "The US has its own problems, including dismal earnings," he said, "but I think it's reasonable to think Europe will go into a depression if people don't do something quickly."

Selling began immediately the market opened but reached its worst at 11.21 am, when the Dow Jones industrial index was off 104.03 at 3,096.58. Analysts regarded this year's previous low of 3,168 as a psychologically important floor.

A clamp on computer-related trading and some bargain-hunting rallied the index to 3,137.38, down 63.23, by lunchtime, by which time almost 190 million shares had changed hands. Wall Street's plunge looked like becoming the sixth largest fall in a single day on record.

Almost a year ago, the market fell 120 points, triggered by a sharp downturn in biotech companies, fears over property problems with insurers and alarm over a White House credit card rate cap.

In October 1989, the market lost 190 points after the collapse of a planned merger of British Airways and United Airlines, which signalled an end to the madness of the eighties. Wall Street's worst day was October 19, 1987, when the Dow lost 508 points.

Other world markets were weak. In Frankfurt, stocks fell to a 20-month closing low on currency worries and weakness on overseas bourses. The 30-share Dax index ended 53.64 points lower at 1,424.400. In Paris, the bourse plunged to its lowest close of 1992. The CAC-40 index fell 72.30 points to 1,622.04.

Pay demands, page 2
Lord Parkinson, page 12
Leading article, page 13
Stock market, page 20
Wall Street, page 20
Comment, page 21

Where's the beef, and where's the millions?

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

ROSS Perot, renowned for his lack of detail in policy statements, is puzzling those who compile lists of wealthy Americans. The presidential candidate appears to be missing \$900 million.

In the latest wealth league table, compiled by the financial magazine *Forbes*, Mr Perot has climbed two places to be ranked among the top 20 richest man in America this year, with a personal fortune of \$2.4 billion. The figure is \$200 million higher than last year, but almost \$1 billion lower than other wealth experts had estimated. *Forbes* magazine reckons he is worth \$3.3 billion.

Forbes justifies its lower figure saying that others had double-counted the

shares that Mr Perot owns in General Motors. The shares represent his largest single asset, worth about \$2 billion. Last year, Mr Perot told *Forbes* to include him in the list worth just a \$1.

This year, he says the beauty of running a private empire is that you "don't have to talk about it." His other assets include oil and gas investments: a \$21 million stake in nEXT, a computer company, run by Steve Job, who founded Apple Computers, 17,000 acres of land close to his home town of Dallas and a 40 per cent stake in Perot Systems, his master private company, which has a contract to manage the computer systems of East Midlands Electricity Board.

Mr Perot is named 19th richest man in America on a list headed by Bill Gates, 36, a Harvard dropout and founder of

Microsoft, who is now worth \$6.3 billion, up \$1.5 billion. He deposes America's richest man for three years, John Kluge, whose former British wife, Patricia, owns *Shooting Stars*, a magazine for soccer card collectors. Mr Kluge controls Metromedia and the majority of Orion Pictures, giving him a family fortune of \$5.5 billion. With his wealth, Mr Gates has bought a \$35 million mansion that includes a 20-seat cinema.

Mr Perot is about to spend \$1 million on advertising this week to launch his first shot at the White House. The campaign was due to start last night with a television slot during the clash between the Dallas Cowboys and Philadelphia Eagles American football teams.

US election reports, page 10



Black hole: Graham Corbett, left, and Sir Alastair say £5.72 billion has been spent

Eurotunnel avoids cash call but share price still slides

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

EUROTUNNEL, the Channel tunnel operator, hopes to avoid raising fresh funds from shareholders until at least 1994, when the tunnel will finally be open, and more likely until 1995, Sir Alastair Morton, the chief executive, said yesterday.

"We're not planning to have a rights issue before we open," he said. But Eurotunnel shares plunged 6.2p to 358p, unsettled by some disappointing revenue forecasts, by yet another postponement of the scheduled opening and by the belief that some recourse to the stock market will be needed before the tunnel becomes profitable.

Sir Alastair said it was impossible to assess how much might be needed from shareholders, or when. "If the start-up goes well and the revenues build up quickly, if interest rates are not too high and if we manage to get settlement of some of our claims for compensation from government and railways, the need will be small and temporary," he said. "We just go for a marginal amount of bridge finance."

Eurotunnel was presenting its latest half-way report, which showed that a total of £5.72 billion had been spent on building the tunnel up to June 30, against £4.88 billion at the end of last December. Borrowings at June 30 were £4.1 billion, said Graham Corbett, the managing director for finance. The report, like the last accounts, was qualified by the auditors.

Sir Alastair held out no immediate hope of a first dividend payment to Eurotunnel's 600,000 small shareholders. "Things will have to go well for that to be before the year 2000," he said.

A comprehensive "peace treaty" had been drawn up to settle the long-running dis-

pute over cost overruns with the tunnel's builders but had been rejected by them in August. If no deal was agreed soon, the matter would have to go to arbitration, with inevitable delays in payments to contractors. "We only have a window of a few more weeks in which it is worth negotiating," Sir Alastair said. "After that, we just settle down to a war of attrition."

Eurotunnel forecasts revenues in 1994, which should be the first full year after the tunnel opens, of £504 million, a £140 million reduction on estimates made last December

by outside consultants employed by the company. Those consultants have since reduced their estimate for that year to as little as £465 million. Eurotunnel insists there is enough money available to complete the tunnel. Sir Alastair said the banks' decision last week to allow the company to draw down further funds for another two months was a signal that they wanted the company to complete the project. "An uncompleted project isn't much good to a banker."

Tempus, page 20

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TODAY IN BUSINESS

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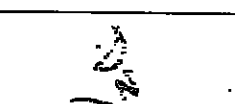


Shareholders have been urged to reject Hanson's unwelcome £780 million bid for Ranks Hovis McDougall
Page 21

COAL LESSON

Britain's coal industry could learn lessons from America, and needs to restructure and be more competitive
Page 19

BED OF ROSES



Silentnight, the bed manufacturer, improved its market share despite profits falling 11 per cent
Tempus, page 20

GOOD FIT

A slimmer down product range helped Stylo, the shoe and sports goods retailer, to lift interim sales by 13 per cent and cut losses
Tempus, page 20

LAW TIMES

Closing date for The Times Law Awards, of which Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, is a judge, is November 22
Page 31

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7160 (-0.0030)
German mark
2.3930 (-0.0402)
Exchange index
80.6 (-0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1779.4 (-73.1)
FT-SE 100
2446.3 (-103.4)
New York Dow Jones
3119.02 (-81.59)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
17101.50 (-222.57)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank base: 9%
3-month interbank: 9½-9¾%
3-month eligible bills: 8½-8¾%
US: Prime Rate: 8%
Federal Funds: 3¼%
3-month Treasury Bills: 2.60-2.58%
30-year bonds: 99½-99¾%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£ \$1 7005
£ DM 2.3696
£ Sfr 2.0746
£ FF 6.5596
£ Yen 163.60
£ Index: 80.6
ECU: 16.3636
SDR: 1.6667
London Foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$348.75 PM \$348.50
Close \$350.80-351.30
COMEX \$350.25-351.10
New York:
Comex \$350.55-351.05

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$20.25/bbl (\$20.40)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 136.9 August (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price



Perot: not as rich as Gates

Employers say recession is deepening

Building job losses average 580 a day

By PATRICIA TEHAN

AN average 580 construction jobs have been lost on every working day in the three years to this June and recession in the industry continues to deepen, an employers group said yesterday.

According to the *Autumn State of Trade Enquiry* from the Building Employers Confederation, another 50,000 jobs are likely to go before the end of the year.

Sir Brian Hill, the BEC president, urged the government to provide a further cut in interest rates as soon as possible, together with special measures to bring confidence back to the housing market.

Sales in the private housing market remain very depressed, despite lower mortgage rates and prices, the BEC said.

The level of construction output dipped sharply in the third quarter and the rate of new enquiries for work is falling. Almost half of firms said their output in the third quarter was lower than in the second quarter.

One out of every five con-

struction firms says it is working at less than half capacity. This proportion has remained the same for the last two years, indicating, the BEC says, that contractors have shed capacity in the recession to reduce overheads and control costs.

Government figures show that more than 400,000 jobs have been lost in construction in the last three years.

Firms' confidence about future workload has fallen to the level recorded at the end of last year. The percentage balance between firms expecting output to be higher over the next 12 months and those expecting it to be lower slipped to minus 65 in the third quarter from minus 54 per cent in the second quarter.

Sir Brian said: "We look to the Chancellor's autumn statement to sustain public investment in vital capital building programmes." He said the confederation had met the prime minister, the Chancellor, the environment secretary and other senior government ministers to put across the severity of the recession. He

added: "So far there has been no real response in terms of government action. Instead we read increasingly of the threat of cuts to our capital spending programmes. So we are now intensifying our lobbying efforts and we shall be looking for an early government response."

□ The West Midlands Regional Chambers of Commerce added to the gloom with a survey of more than 700 businesses showing orders are slumping and exports have fallen off.

Andrew Millward, chairman, said the region's businesses hoped the European summit in Birmingham this month would herald a period of economic certainty that would restore falling confidence and fortunes.

The latest survey figures, gathered immediately before the sterling crisis, showed a sharp downturn in home orders and deliveries and a significant dip in exports. Firms' confidence in their ability to improve turnover and profits has slumped.



In and out: Bob Rankin, who led the 1988 buy-in at Lilley, left the group yesterday

Rankin resigns as head of Lilley

By MATTHEW BOND

BOB Rankin yesterday resigned as chief executive of Lilley, the construction group. Sir Lewis Robertson, the company doctor who became chairman in 1986, said he went with the board's "personal good wishes" and paid tribute to "Mr Rankin's energetic contribution".

Mr Rankin, a former chief

executive of Balfour Beatty, BICC's construction arm, led a £27 million management buy-in at Lilley in 1988. The company never really recovered from the narrow failure of its £137 million bid for Tilbury, a rival contractor group, in 1989.

In April, Lilley announced pre-tax losses of £5 million

and said it would be unwinding its property joint venture with LET, a property company with which Mr Rankin has connections. A fortnight ago, the company announced higher interim profits of £2 million but unsettled the City by passing its interim dividend. Yesterday the shares closed unchanged at 64p.

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Commercial Union forges Korean link

COMMERCIAL Union has set up a co-operation agreement with Hyundai Marine and Fire Insurance Company, the general insurance arm of the huge Hyundai industrial conglomerate, to give it access to the protected insurance markets of south Korea. The deal allows CU to offer a local underwriting service to its clients with operations in Korea, while Hyundai will be able to provide its customers with a service in the 80 locations worldwide where CU has offices.

The two companies will also assist each other in areas such as training and exchange of information. CU became the first UK underwriting company to set up a liaison office in Korea in 1989. Hyundai already has underwriting operations in Japan and representative offices in London, New York and Singapore.

Kitty Little in profit

KITTY Little, the USM-quoted company that makes air fresheners and toilet bags, and markets self-selection reading glasses and sunglasses, made a pre-tax profit of £26,000 in the six months to June 30 (£65,000 last year). Turnover increased 31 per cent to £2.69 million (£2.05 million). Earnings per share were 0.06p compared with a loss of 0.67p. There is no interim dividend (nil). The profit reflects a contribution from the Foster Grant sunglasses distribution business acquired last year.

Mosaic chief named

MOSAIC Investments, the mini-conglomerate whose shares were suspended last week, has named Hugh Sykes as chairman. He replaces Greg Hutchings, chief executive of Tomkins, who stepped in as acting chairman in July after Brian Disbury resigned. Mr Sykes, who built up Thermal Scientific and Technical Components Industries, plans to review group activities and conclude talks with bankers and a key shareholder. The annual meeting was adjourned last week to allow time for discussions to be completed.

Microfilm lifts payout

MICROFILM Reprographics, the microfilm bureau, made pre-tax profits of £8.22 million (£8.19 million) in the year to June 30. Turnover was £33.7 million (£34.4 million) and earnings per share 10.6p (10.4p). A final dividend of 2.88p (2.4p) makes a total of 4.32p (3.6p). In July, a US subsidiary paid \$860,000 for Fort Knox Secured Data Storage, of Atlanta, and last month, Microfilm paid NCR £1 million for Computer Output Microfilm. Cash, however, has increased by £1.8 million to £8.3 million.

Greenall buys golf club

GREENALL Group, formerly the north west brewer Greenall Whitley, has expanded its involvement in golf with the purchase for £10.3 million cash of Belton Woods Hotel and Country Club from its administrative receiver, Belton is in Grantham, Lincolnshire, and has 96 bedrooms and two 18-hole golf courses, as well as swimming pools and squash courts. Greenall also owns two other golfing country clubs, The Belfry near Birmingham and the venue for next year's Ryder Cup, and Mottram Hall in Cheshire.

Cooper Clarke slides

BAD debts of £129,000 took their toll of Cooper Clarke Group, a building materials distributor. Pre-tax profits slumped to £125,900 in the six months to June 30, compared with £203,000 last year. Turnover was £11.3 million (£10.5 million). While turnover has increased, there has been continued pressure on margins and profitability has suffered. Several customers face the prospect of falling order books. Earnings per share were 2.2p (3.7p). There is no interim dividend.

Chillington reaps the benefits

By JON ASHWORTH

A RISE in demand for agricultural hand tools due to the drought in Africa helped Chillington Corporation, the diversified industrial, property and plantations group, raise pre-tax profits to £424,000 (£109,000) in the six months to end-June. The company has won orders worth \$1 million for the supply of tools to Mozambique, Angola and Djibouti.

Profits from UK trading have more than doubled, but group profits are well below the £1.2 million reported in the first half of 1990. Exceptional redundancy costs of £100,000 dragged the results down last time. Turnover eased from £27.5 million to £24.2 million. Earnings per share were 0.01p, compared with a loss of 2.09p. There is no interim dividend (0.5p).

Losses in the manufactured products division have been substantially reduced and it has been trading profitably since April. The African plantation interests have suffered badly from drought but are still profitable.

Target for output is exceeded

CRUDE oil output by Opec states rose in September to an estimated 24.75 million barrels per day, according to a Reuters survey. This was 180,000 bpd above a revised estimate for August of 24.57 million. Extra volume in August and September came from Iran and Saudi Arabia, while Kuwait continued to rebuild production devastated by the Gulf war.

At its meeting in Geneva last month, Opec allotted itself a fourth-quarter share of the world oil market of 24.2 million bpd but set no output quotas for individual countries. Iran rejected the agreement but promised not to disrupt the market.

Average Kuwaiti output in September is put at 1.25 million bpd. Kuwait says output is running at 1.3 million.

Last month, Hamoud Abdullah al-Rqobah, Kuwait's oil minister, said output would average 1.45 million bpd in the fourth quarter and reach 1.5 million by the end of the year. Saudi production in September is estimated at 8.4 million bpd and Iranian output at 3.5 million.

Opec has no plans to reimpose oil quotas

FROM REUTERS IN DUBAI

RECENT gains in oil prices mean that Opec producers will not consider reimposing quotas or fixing limits at their November meeting in Vienna, Subroto, the organisation's secretary-general, told a news agency.

He said the meeting would discuss total output for the first and possibly the second quarter of 1993. Opec was unlikely to return to the quota system effectively shelved after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

"The circumstances which forced Opec to stop its quota system remain," he said. He expressed satisfaction with the

state of the oil market, saying prices should become firmer in the last quarter of the year and stay high into 1993 as a result of greater winter demand for oil.

The price of Opec's benchmark basket of seven crudes, currently \$19.42 per barrel, averaged \$18.35 this year, was slightly lower than the \$21 target, he said.

Dr Subroto estimated that renewed Iraqi exports, and Kuwait's return to pre-war output levels, would not greatly affect the market, which was able to absorb an additional two million barrels a day.

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RHM climbs 66p as Hanson makes hostile £780m bid

BY ANGELA MACKAY

SHARES in Ranks Hovis McDougall climbed 66p yesterday to 241p a share after Hanson, the cash-rich Anglo-American conglomerate, launched a £780 million hostile cash offer for the milling and baking group.

Lord Hanson and Derek Bonham, the chief executive, said they wished to introduce a new core business to Hanson, whose interests span mining, building materials, tobacco, chemical and forest products.

In a letter to the company, they criticised RHM, which owns many popular brands including Mothers Pride, Hovis and Bisto, for failing to meet the optimistic forecasts made in 1988 when it withstood a bid from Goodman Fielder Watie, the Australian and New Zealand food group. Stanley Metcalfe, RHM's chairman, said the 220p a share offer "had no commercial logic" and "seriously undervalued" the group. How-

ever, the City seemed inclined to favour the proposal, particularly if it was sweetened a little.

RHM has a number of affected shareholders who saw the value of their investment slip from Goodman Fielder's offer of 465p in 1988 to 140p earlier this year. While they were never given the opportunity to accept Goodman Fielder's bid because it was referred to the monopolies commission, many investors bought shares in 1991 at about 303p from Kerry Packer and Sir James Goldsmith who had in turn bought the defeated Australasian's 29.9 per cent stake for 400p a share.

Profits, as well as the share price, have suffered recently culminating in Mr Metcalfe warning shareholders that profits for the year ended August 31 would be significantly lower. Forecasts suggest pre-tax profits will drop from £150 million to £95 million, mainly as a result of fierce competition and overcapacity in bread and milling.

In the letter sent to Mr Metcalfe yesterday, Lord Hanson said it was apparent that "bread wars have debilitated RHM's performance and we are sure we can be helpful in restoring your previous fine reputation".

Analysts said Hanson's offer, which represents an exit multiple of 11.5 times earnings, was well timed and well pitched.

Henderson Crosthwaite, the brokers, estimated RHM had a breakup value of 285p a share while County NatWest Securities suggested 260p. Both firms believe an offer increased by between 20p and 40p a share would clinch the deal.

Hanson is likely to sell the brands and restructure the milling and baking operations which are highly cash generative. Also of interest will be the fair-value provisioning in the accounts - if there is a restructuring, which will boost Hanson's profits, while longer term, the extra income in the UK could help absorb Hanson's rising advanced corporation tax liability.

Added yeast, page 21

Coal chiefs warned over talks delay

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

TIM Eggar, the energy minister, warned coal industry leaders yesterday that the uncertainty over delays in the current round of coal contract negotiations was damaging to all concerned.

Outlining the government's reasons for privatisation at a Coal Industry Society lunch in London, he said this could not go ahead until British Coal and the power generators had agreed on the volumes of coal supply for the next five years.

The talks currently centre on a reduction from 65 million tonnes taken by National Power and PowerGen this year to 40 million tonnes next year, falling to 30 million for the next four years.

Mr Eggar said the government wanted the largest economic coal industry that the market could support, but he said it must be an industry capable of providing a product that customers want at a price they are willing to pay. He said the privatisation bill will begin its way through Parliament early next session.

British Coal's continued presence in the public sector is anomalous, British Coal simply cannot hope to compete on equal terms within a liberalised energy market while it remains handicapped by the constraints of public sector ownership. And it is also presently saddled with the

responsibility of being an owner, operator and licensor all at the same time," he said.

Mr Eggar said privatisation will lead to an industry ready to advance and to innovate.

The government had identified the five key issues for the industry: to maintain the health and safety of mine-workers; reduced energy costs from lower coal costs must be passed on to the electricity consumer; to separate the mining and marketing of coal from the leasing and licensing of it so that there are no conflicts of interests when licences are awarded; pension interests must be safeguarded; and employees must be offered the opportunity to secure a stake in the ownership of their industry.

Mr Eggar said although the coal industry has taken great strides towards improving its competitiveness, it could learn from best practices overseas.

He said once contracts are signed it will be for British Coal, not the government, to take decisions about closures and manpower reductions.

Although British Coal has already targeted pits for closure, it is waiting for the Treasury to agree to an enhanced redundancy package for the more than 25,000 miners who are expected to lose their jobs before announcing the closure dates.



Answering the call: David Elsberry, chief executive, delivered higher profits

Racal finally unlocks Chubb

BY OUR CITY STAFF

RACAL, the electronics group, finally parted company with Chubb, its security division, yesterday when shares in both groups were quoted separately for the first time.

Shares in Chubb Security made a hesitant start. The price was depressed by early selling on a day when the market was plunging. It closed with a 14p loss at 187p, on a modest volume of 735,000 shares.

The demerger came in the wake of an abortive bid for Racal by Williams Holdings. Shareholders in Racal Electronics were offered a package of shares equivalent to five times the existing share price. Racal ended the session 2p firmer at 131p, on volume of 976,000. In their old form, they would have been changing hands at 63½p.

The split is Racal's second in just over a year. In September 1991, Vodafone, the cellular radio company, was effectively handed back to shareholders in the parent company. Both demergers were part of a plan conceived by Sir Ernest Harrison, Racal's founder and chairman, to maximise shareholder value after it became clear that the group's cell-phone interests were being valued at a substantial discount by the stock market.

While investors responded enthusiastically to the Vodafone split, the reaction to Chubb's demerger has been more muted. Critics say that since Racal and Chubb should command similar market ratings it is by no means clear there is a great deal of discount value to be unlocked.

David Elsberry, Racal's new chief executive, aims to prove the doubters wrong. He has been at the right hand of Sir Ernest for several years and has been a key influence in the process of improving Racal's performance dramatically. Much needed to be done, for the development of the Voda-

fone business starved Racal's traditional operation of resources. The resulting under-investment gave rise to volatile performance and left the group vulnerable to the unsuccessful offer from Williams after the Vodafone merger.

Racal escaped Williams by promising a substantially increased level of profits and then delivering. Stripping the Vodafone contribution from

group profits for 1990-1 shows that the existing group (without Chubb) made losses of £56 million. Cost cutting and rationalisation brought Racal back to profits of £16 million in the year to last March. But more margin improvement is possible and the City expects Mr Elsberry to achieve it. Analysts expect profits of more than £50 million this year.

Consumers opt to cut debt rather than borrow more

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CONSUMERS again chose to reduce debt in August rather than borrow more, partly reversing the pickup in net credit seen in July, according to the latest government figures.

The credit data, issued yesterday, showed that net credit advanced to consumers by finance houses, building societies and on bank credit cards declined by £30 billion in August after rising by £78 million the month before. The net credit figures, which chart the change in the amount of consumer credit outstanding, were recently altered to take account of debt revaluation.

The amount of new credit advanced was a seasonally adjusted £3.82 billion in August, down from the £4.25 billion in July. The building society lending in the data excludes loans for house-buying. Credit card debt and building society loans showed tiny increases in August, but the net repayment to finance houses amounted to £34 million.

Both the net credit and the overall new credit numbers were weaker than City forecasts and indicate that the economy is still failing to climb out of recession. Julian Callow, an economist at Chase Investment, said: "There is no sign of recovery here." He said the policy vacuum left after the government pulled out of the exchange-rate mechanism was likely to undermine confidence further.

Brian Bailey, chairman of Infolink, the credit information group, said continued uncertainty about sterling, prospects of a rise in mortgage rates and fears of unemployment have all had a significant effect on consumers' attitude to credit.

Infolink figures showed the year-on-year decline in August demand for credit in the retail and finance house sectors was the biggest of any month so far this year. Mr Bailey said the August decline in consumer credit enquiries was likely to have an impact on the amount of new credit advanced this month.

New environment department figures showed a seasonally adjusted 2 per cent drop in housing starts in the three months to the end of August, confirming the continued de-

terioration in housebuilding. The number of starts in August was also below that for August 1991. Completions were virtually unchanged from a year previously.

The Infolink data show that demand for retail credit fell 2.3 per cent in August compared with the same month last year. This followed a disappointing June and July and provided what Mr Bailey considers clear evidence of consumer caution.

Jobs to go in Hydro Fertilisers cutback

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

THE toll of job losses continued its rise yesterday as a leading fertiliser producer disclosed its plans to shed more than 200 jobs as the industry struggles against recession.

Hydro Fertilisers, which boasts a Royal Warrant from the Queen, is closing two of the older plants at Immingham, south Humberside. The closures will mean the loss of about 140 production-related jobs. About 65 more jobs are to go in other departments at various locations, including Immingham and Cambridge.

George Henshaw, managing director, said: "These job losses are very regrettable, but inevitable against a background of the most difficult trading conditions ever experienced in the UK. The fertiliser industry is suffering from over-capacity and cheap imports against a background of a declining market."

The company said it had a programme to help redundant staff find other employment. It expected the changes to be in place by early 1993. Last week more than 9,500 jobs were axed across Britain, including the government's Defence Research Agency (nearly 2,000), Sears, the stores group (up to 1,800), Sellafield (1,000), IBM (600) and Cadbury Schweppes (450).

Oriel sells division to Jardine

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

ORIEL Group, a small insurance broker chaired by Nigel Cayer, announced that its 100 per cent pre-tax profits were down by 25 per cent and that it was selling its general insurance broking division to Jardine Insurers Brokers for £5.4 million cash.

The company said it was selling the division because of the capital and management time that would be needed to maintain its margins and market share.

In the year to last December 31, the companies being sold made pre-tax profits of £836,000 before contributions to central costs. They had net assets of £400,000. The sale will give rise to a £1.5 million exceptional profit at the year end. After the sale, the group's operations will consist of personal lines, creditor, international and Lloyd's insurance broking subsidiaries.

Taxable profits for the six months to June 30 fell from £1.6 million to £1.2 million, largely as result of "the very difficult economic climate" and higher interest costs. The interim dividend has been raised by 11 per cent to 2p.

Sabena-Air France link backed by EC

FROM REUTERS IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission has approved an alliance between Air France and Sabena, the Belgian airline, but also struck a deal to stop the two dominating European aviation from their continental strongholds.

In return for a quick go-ahead, the commission said it had wrung pledges from the airlines and their governments so that rivals would not be shut out on routes from Brussels' Zaventem airport to parts of France, Africa and Europe.

Sir Leon Brittan, EC commissioner in charge of competition policy, said: "There was without a doubt a real if limited problem of competition... [but] I am nevertheless happy with the pledges that have been made in response."

EC approval clears the last hurdle to a business partnership signed last April after Air France bought a 37.58 per cent stake in Sabena. The commission had earlier given approval for big state capital injections into both carriers.

The airlines and their governments have promised to limit their total takeoff and

landing slots at Zaventem, giving rival carriers at least 25 per cent of all parking space at any hour of the day, commission officials said. On several routes where Sabena and Air France would have largely cornered the market, the accord stipulates that one of them must pull out if another EC airline offers competing service.

It covered flights from Brussels to Paris, Lyon or Nice and flights from Brussels or Paris to Kigali, Bujumbura, Niamey, Ouagadougou and Bamako in Africa. The two airlines would also have to make more room for rivals on routes from their capitals to Hungary and Turkey.

Marleen Kin, for Sabena, said the EC clearance meant her airline would now secure 6 billion Belgian francs on top of BFR3 billion it had already received from the government, as well as a doubling of the BFR3 billion it had received so far from Air France.

Some EC officials noted that the commission had been able to use the threat of a four-month enquiry to secure maximum co-operation from the airlines in their negotiations.

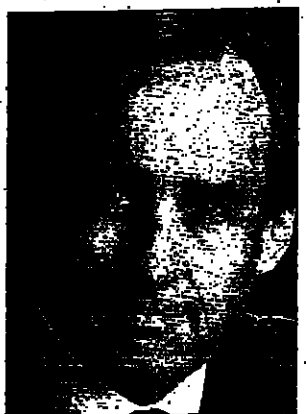
Stora closes 1,000-year-old copper mine

BY OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

LARS-ÅKE Helgasson, president of Stora, Europe's leading forest products group, will go down in his company's long history as the man who closed the great copper mine at Falun, central Sweden, after more than 1,000 years of profitable ore extraction.

Swedes first started to exploit Falun in the Viking age. But as Europe's prime source of copper it was to have enormous influence on economic and political developments across Europe. Falun copper funded much of the Thirty Years War, roofed Louis XIV's palace at Versailles and allowed Sweden at one time to base its monetary system on the metal.

While Stora's present difficulties reflect global economic



Helgasson: optimistic

slowdown and the weak state of demand for its core products—paper, pulp and building materials—the mine is being closed on December 8 simply because it is exhausted. The company yesterday reported a Kr380 million (£41

million) loss net of financial items for the first eight months of this year. Kr1.2 billion worse than the same period last year. Mr Helgasson, who makes no secret of the "uphill climb" Stora faces, also expects a loss for the remaining part of this year.

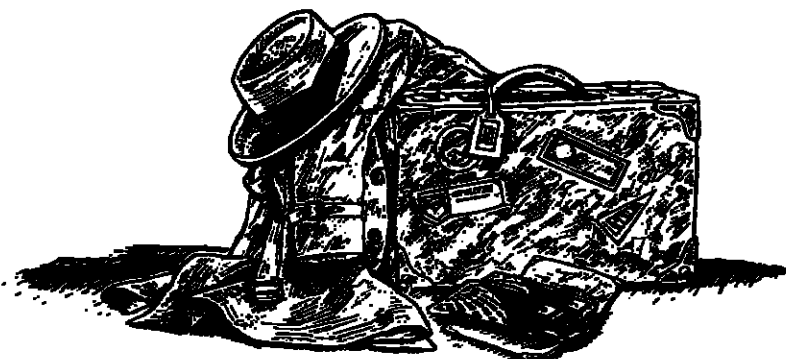
Despite current losses and the massive cost-cutting programme to reduce Stora's debt, Mr Helgasson clearly has no intention of disposing of his mine. The giant hole in the centre of Falun, just a stone's throw from the group's headquarters, will remain part of the company, since it justifies Stora's claim to be the oldest share company in the world. A 1288 certificate proves that Stora had shareholders centuries before Stockholm's bourse was founded.

Mr Helgasson is committed to paying costs to enable Stora

to emerge fitter and leaner from severe recession at home and economic misery in many of its key markets. Under his present cost-cutting programme, he is well on course to shed Kr2 billion off costs by the end of this year, mainly through rationalisation in Sweden. Last week, he disclosed plans to trim costs by a further Kr1 billion next year and the same amount again in 1994. Last year, group sales totalled Kr67 billion.

Sweden's government last week gave beleaguered Swedish industry a welcome hand-out with a swinging cut in payroll tax. This will save Stora alone some Kr175 million a year. Mr Helgasson declared he now felt "rather optimistic". Since forestry investment works to a 100-year cycle, long-term confidence is necessary.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Ancient capital rebuilds its strength

The historic gateway to the East may soon be the centre of a Black Sea economic union, as well as retaining its trading links with the European Community, writes **Peter Stafford**

Istanbul, a historic city which prides itself on having one foot in Europe and one in Asia, and on having been over the centuries the capital of three empires, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman, suddenly sees new opportunities opening up before it. With the collapse of the former Soviet Union, and the changes taking place in the Balkans, political and business leaders believe the city could recover the role it once had of a regional metropolis, with influence far beyond the frontiers of Turkey.

"Istanbul is a world city," says Dr Nurettin Sözen, the mayor of greater Istanbul, "and a bridge between East and West. As the first steps are taken towards democratisation and a market economy in the former socialist countries of the Balkans and the Soviet Union, we, who have 60 years' experience in the same areas, can lead those countries and their cities in new ventures."

"Istanbul could be a new banking and financial centre for the Black Sea region, central Asia and the Balkans," says Professor Haluk Kabaoglu of the University of Marmara, who is also general secretary of the Istanbul Chamber of Industry.

No one thinks this is going to happen immediately. Istanbul is the leading industrial, commercial and financial centre of Turkey. It has attracted much foreign investment and is the home of several Turkish companies of international standing. But there are so many political and economic uncertainties in the region that it is bound to be a long-term prospect.

Turkish businessmen are, however, already making new contacts,

particularly with the central Asian republics which were formerly part of the Soviet Union, and Turkish credits have been made available. In June, Istanbul was the setting for a conference of 11 countries bordering the Black Sea, at which it was agreed to develop economic co-operation; and a Russian delegation has since proposed that Istanbul should be the centre of a Black Sea economic union.

Business leaders insist that Turkey's main orientation is still towards Europe, and membership of

The city's strong suit is not so much its history as the dynamism that it has shown in recent years

the European Community. But these developments show, they say, that recent barriers between Turkey and its neighbours in the Black Sea region and further east have been removed, creating new opportunities for Turkey in general and Istanbul in particular.

In central Asia, Turkey is taking advantage of its cultural links with many of the republics, since several of them have languages related to Turkish. Just as important, however, is the prospect that they will see Turkey as an economic role model. Nihat Gökyigit, chairman and chief executive officer of

Tekfen, the large contracting and engineering conglomerate, points out that Turkey's own experience of transition to a market economy is relatively recent, and so relevant to the newly independent republics. In addition, Turkish exporters and construction firms already have experience in the old Soviet Union.

Last month, Mr Gökyigit was host to a delegation of managers from Kazakhstan who had come to Istanbul to talk about Turkey's recent experience. Professor Kabaoglu talks of businessmen from Azerbaijan coming to Istanbul for courses in economics, accounting and business methods.

It is recognised that Turkey is in competition with Iran for influence in central Asia. But Turkey, it is believed, is in the stronger position, for several reasons: its language links, the fact that it is Sunni Muslim and, just as important, a secular Muslim state, and the relatively developed banking and financial structures in Istanbul.

Since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in the aftermath of the first world war, Istanbul, for all its dynamism, has been confined to the role of an essentially Turkish city. It has not even been the capital, since Mustafa Kemal Atatürk decided in the 1920s that Ankara, in the heart of Anatolia, was a more appropriate capital for his new-born, and shrunken, Turkish state.

Istanbul is, however, Turkey's largest city, with a rapidly growing population, somewhere between eight and ten million, and it accounts for a sizeable proportion of the country's economic wealth. As these new opportunities open up for Turkey, it is Istanbul which stands to gain most.



On the waterfront the domes and minarets of Istanbul's imperial mosques rise above the hills that dominate the Golden Horn

The city has a naturally beautiful setting, sprawling over the hills on either side of the Golden Horn and the Bosphorus. The domes and minarets that rise from the skyline of the old city, and the palaces that line the Bosphorus waterfront, are a reminder of past grandeur. It is not surprising that it has been chosen not just for the Black Sea conference but for many such meetings, including those of the Council of Europe and the Islamic Conference Organisation.

It has applied to be host of the Olympic Games in 2000, and Mr Sözen speaks confidently of its chances when the choice is made in March, 1994. Istanbul, he says, straddles two continents, is part of a secular Islamic state, and is a "world city".

In general, the city's strong suit is not so much its history as the dynamism that it and the Turkish economy as a whole have shown in recent years. Istanbul is anything but a museum city, and one of the most remarkable things about it is that its population has grown from some 2.5 million ten or 15 years ago to its present 8-10 million (the exact figures are unknown). It is thought to be still growing by

almost half a million people a year.

This causes acute strains for every part of the city's infrastructure: its housing, roads, public transport, water supply and sewage. It means that life in this teeming city is hectic and — for those who move into the shanty towns, or *gecekondu* — basic. Critics of Mr Sözen and his municipal administration say that unlike his dynamic but controversial predecessor, Bedrettin Dalan, he has been unable to make an impact on the difficulties caused by this growth.

However, the city works in spite of the formidable traffic jams at peak times. It has good telephone links, and Mr Sözen talks confidently of improvements that are planned. Last month, he presided over a ceremony at which the first earth was turned in the building of an underground railway, to complement the trams and buses. By the end of next year, he hopes, work will have begun on a railway tunnel under the Bosphorus, which will provide an alternative to the two bridges built in recent years.

At the headquarters of the Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration, Ergun Göknel, the general director, looks out, appropriately, at

a Roman aqueduct built by the Emperor Valens in the fourth century. He has the same task as Valens had — to provide water — but on a vastly larger scale.

He also has to reduce the pollution that affects not just the water piped into people's homes but the Golden Horn and the Sea of Marmara. At present, Istanbul has no plant for the treatment of waste water, but two large ones are being built, he says, and there will eventually be 15.

One of the effects of immigration into the city has been to change its character. The new immigrants come overwhelmingly from rural parts of Turkey, chiefly Anatolia, and they have brought to the big city rural ways that do not always appeal to the longer-established residents. Women wear shawls over their heads, for instance, in contrast with the liberated ways of many Istanbul residents, and there are sometimes tensions between the two groups.

The immigrants have even affected diet. Orhan Siller, general secretary of the Economic and Social History Foundation of Turkey, comments that until 1980 there were no döner kebab restau-

rants in Istanbul, because they were a feature of southeastern Turkey. Nor were there the dried fruit and nut stalls which have now become common. And there had been a switch away from wine to drinking rakı, the aniseed-flavoured spirit, which was another country habit.

Throughout these changes, however, Istanbul has retained its special appeal. The free-for-all of the traffic means that travelling across the city can be a hair-raising experience, but the city retains the marks of two distinct civilisations, the late Roman/Byzantine and the Ottoman. There is a sense of calm to be found, for instance, in the great church-turned-mosque of Hagia Sophia, the Topkapı palace, where the sultans lived, the Süleymaniye mosque, or many of the other monuments.

There is tranquility of a different kind along the Bosphorus. In Yıldız park, for instance, once part of a sultan's palace, the Touring and Automobile Club of Turkey, headed by Dr Celik Gülersoy, has restored two 19th-century pavilions, and from there, among the trees, there are peaceful views out over the historic waterway.



The Golden Horn, Istanbul, Turkey.

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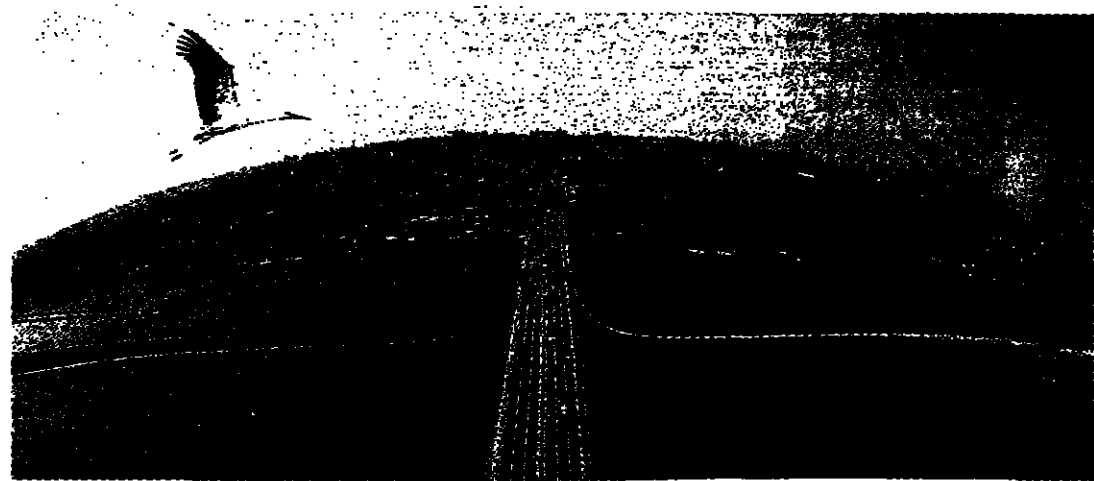
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Trading from Byzantium

Turkey's largest city is the seat of industry and commerce, says Andrew Mango

One of the wisest decisions taken by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was to choose Ankara as the capital of the republic which he founded in 1923. Had he not done so, Istanbul, the old Ottoman capital, would have had to bear the weight of government in addition to that of industry, trade, tourism and all the other activities of which it has remained the national centre.

It is sometimes said that Istanbul stands to Ankara as Milan stands to Rome. Milan, however, has only half the population of Rome, whereas with its 6.6 million citizens in the city itself, and many more in the surrounding conurbation, Istanbul is more than twice the size of Ankara, and the biggest city in Turkey.

It has always been a great trading metropolis. It has always been a proud centre of crafts as well as arts. It was only after the second world war, however, that manufacturing industry began to grow in the environs of Istanbul.

By 1972, greater Istanbul accounted for 38 per cent of the value added in manufacturing in Turkey. In absolute terms, industrial growth has continued, although the relative weight of Istanbul has eased as other urban centres have grown. Decentralisation is now the order of the day. For instance, Eczacibasi Holding, one of Turkey's largest and most progressive conglomerates, has decided to move its pharmaceutical factory from an Istanbul suburb to Thrace.

Even so, Istanbul province retains a concentration of consumer goods industries: white goods, electronics, detergents, ready-made clothing, leather and much else besides. Paper-making and petrochemical facilities lie across the provincial boundary on the shores of the polluted gulf of İzmit, but İzmit is itself now part of the



Commerce ranges from the factory (top) to waterfront fish stalls, selling the catch



Istanbul conurbation, which stretches for some 70 miles along the northern shores of the Sea of Marmara on both sides of the Bosphorus.

In 1985, Istanbul accounted for 23 per cent of the national product in Turkey. Industry was still the main activity: of the total product of Istanbul province, industry represented 35 per cent, trade 31 per cent, transport 10 per cent, services six per cent and farming only one per cent. Since then, the shares of trade and, particularly, of services have risen.

However, while large corporations are moving their manufacturing facilities elsewhere, multitudes of small workshops remain in the city. At the last count, 86 per cent of manufacturing establishments employed 10 workers or fewer. Commerce remains firmly

entrenched in Istanbul, but it is moving to new sites within the expanding city. For centuries, business activity centred on the harbour, particularly in Galata, north of the entrance to the Golden Horn. Galata, Eminönü, which faces it across the Golden Horn, and the hill of Beyoğlu (known as Pera to the Europeans and Levantines who developed it in the last century), are still home to banks and trading houses.

Big business, though, is moving north to Maslak, on the hills overlooking the European shore of the Bosphorus. Its skyscrapers, which have earned it the name of the Turkish Manhattan, house the corporate headquarters of many of the country's largest banks and holding companies.

Istanbul is the capital of the private sector of the Turkish

economy. In addition to the head offices of private banks, and trading and manufacturing companies, it is the seat of Turkey's stock exchange, of the all-embracing union of chambers of commerce and commodity exchanges, of the more select association of Turkish businessmen and industrialists which groups the largest companies, of the council of foreign economic relations, and the foreign capital association.

All Turkey's national newspapers are published in Istanbul. The film industry is also concentrated here, as is commercial television.

The effort to put Istanbul on the world business map did not begin in earnest until the 1980s. Earlier, lack of reliable business communications and other facilities had prevented it from succeeding Beirut when

the Lebanese civil war destroyed the latter as the business centre of the Middle East. Since then telecommunications have improved out of all recognition, much of the equipment being manufactured locally.

There will be further improvement when TÜRKİSAT, the French-built Turkish satellite, is launched in a couple of years' time. One of its functions will be to serve as an international link for the telephone networks of the Turkish republics of the former Soviet Union.

Istanbul can now provide all the facilities needed by modern business: financial and consultancy services, chartered accountants, advertising and public relations, bilingual secretaries and translators, reliable postal services.

Although costs are rising, the devaluation of the Turkish lira more or less in line with inflation — which the government is currently trying to pull down from 70 per cent to 50 per cent — sees to it that Istanbul remains a comparatively cheap city.

While business services are good, however, the urban infrastructure needs urgent improvement. True, much has been done. Electricity and water supplies are beginning to catch up with the needs of a population which is increasing in the city alone by over 250,000 a year and is expected to be 12 million by 2000. The city is being converted to natural gas, and cables are being laid to distribute telephone services and television programmes. A new sewage disposal system is under construction.

However, while new bypass motorways have speeded up through traffic, rush-hour traffic in the inner city is a nightmare. Just now, the recession has slowed down investment in public works, while democratisation has brought with it strikes in municipal services.

For all that, Istanbul is coping well. It is a popular posting for foreign executives, and a magnet for domestic enterprise. Its problems are the problems of success.

A nostalgic return to a golden age

New life for old Beyoğlu

In the hoardings and shopfronts of everyday life, but at the fact that foreign words are now spelt correctly.

A disappearing pleasure of Istanbul life is the habit shopowners and restaurateurs once had of naming their establishments in a transliterated French.



Times gone by: the fine décor of Markiz, a traditional Beyoğlu pâtisserie

Time was, it was *kamiflo* (read "comme il faut") to take tea and pastries in Markiz (read "Marquise") before spending a night on the town in the Follies (no prizes).

There is still, across from the all too accurately spelt McDonald's, a relic of this charming form of nomenclature. This is Maksims Gazino. Maksims is Maxim's, of course, but a *gazino* in Turkey is not somewhere to play roulette, but a nightclub the likes of which do not exist elsewhere outside Hollywood films.

The stars at Maksims are measured by the yards of neon-tube that advertise their names on the billboards. Top

billing usually goes to ballads of morbid tales of love gone awry.

This style of singing, and the machismo subculture it supports, is called "arabesque", and for some time it has been the mainstay of pop sociologists in Turkey. Colloquially, "arabesque" is used to describe the irritation the urbanite feels with the immigrants from the countryside.

The performer most anxiously awaited on the night I was there was a *diva* who appeared after every other number in a frock more extravagant than the last. No expense had been spared on feathers and sequins, or cloth gardenias strategically placed. Her whole person was drenched in a perfume noticeable from the back rows, which could only have been applied with a crop duster.

The performance was made the more intriguing by the knowledge that the woman singing her heart out on the stage had, a few years before, not been a woman at all. Under the glare of publicity and the surgeon's blade, this performer had done a more radical quick-change.

The change took place at the height of martial law, and at that time was an act even bolder than might at first appear. Bülent Ersoy, as the singer was called, was for a time banned from the stage and reduced to giving performances in private or to Turks living abroad.

Her performance, however, wins over those who come to snigger. She has a witty manner of a Turkish Gracie Fields, and a fine voice whose half-tones and vibratos hark back to the tradition of Ottoman court music.

Even so, she seems an unlikely hero for Istanbul's taxi-drivers and street-vendors, not to mention those able to afford the not insubstantial price of the *menüfix* ("menu fixe") at Maksims.

ANDREW FINKEL

Into the modern world

Not only is Istanbul competing with Manchester, along with other cities, to hold the Olympic games in the year 2000, but according to the more generous estimates, it is expanding in population at the rate of one Manchester — some 450,000 people — every year. The next census, in 2000, will confirm its status as a city of over 10 million people. Since 1950, the number of inhabitants has doubled every 15 years, writes Andrew Finkel.

Planning under such circumstances must seem at times like catching an elephant in free fall. It has also come increasingly to mean performing a feat of political balance, squaring the needs of its expanding population for very basic services with the city's increasingly sophisticated function in the national and international economies.

There is no clearer example of this than the mixed reactions which greeted the construction of the city's wave of new five-star hotels. They had to be built for Istanbul to play the international role to which it aspires. Yet to make way for them, the city has had to sacrifice valuable green areas, and in two or three obvious cases the resulting buildings would certainly be found guilty by a commission for architectural crimes.

"People First" was the campaign slogan of Dr Nurettin Süzen, the current mayor of greater Istanbul, in the 1989 election campaign, with as its subtext the accusation that his predecessor, Bedrettin Dalan, had been excessive in his attempts to give Istanbul an international facelift. Dr Süzen accused Mr Dalan of not just creating an international commercial centre, but of allowing commercial interests to carve up the city.

It was a charge that was reinforced by the national unpopularity of the Motherland Party, which was then in power in Ankara and to which Mr Dalan belonged. Mr Dalan pointed to the roads he had built, but Dr Süzen promised free milk, and he won.

Istanbul's electorate is fickle, however, and any mayor must have at the back of his mind the knowledge that not one of his predecessors has been able to secure a second term since it became an elected office three decades ago. Dr Süzen was given a sharp warning in the 1991 general election, when his Social Democratic

A tunnel from Europe to Asia is just one of the grand plans for Istanbul



A bridge too many: congestion has worsened, not eased

Populist Party (SHP) did badly in Istanbul, losing ground in the outlying neighbourhoods that his administration is pledged to help.

He now faces the job of convincing his public that he not only knows how to criticise, but has a working vision of Istanbul which he can realise.

For all his uncoined dislike of his predecessor, Dr Süzen is helped by Mr Dalan's precedent in creating large projects and managing the great sums of money necessary for their implementation. The municipality's current opportunity arises because the SHP is now a junior partner in the national coalition in Ankara. The financial floodgates are not wide open, but they have at least been kicked ajar.

Although municipalities are

entitled to a block grant based on their size and share of national taxes, the national government is in practice able to withhold funds when it chooses. The present municipality in Istanbul should not only get its money from the government, but continue the practice of its predecessor and use its own powers to go to international markets.

The city has ambitious plans to spend in two areas where the rapid growth hurts most: transportation, and water and waste water treatment. One pledge is to make the badly-polluted Sea of Marmara a place where people can swim by the turn of the century. This is an echo of Mr Dalan's promise to make the waters of the Golden Horn as blue as his eyes — which draws the rejoinder from Ergun Göknel,

head of İSKİ, Istanbul's water authority. "In any case, the Golden Horn has always been brown."

İSKİ has just secured a \$1.1 billion loan from the World Bank, which is 40 per cent of the cost of the first stage of an ambitious project to protect the water supply from the pollution of illegal settlements, harness distant water sources, and for the first time in the city's history, build biological treatment plants for the sewage.

Both İSKİ and the city have plans to spend billions more. Two of the most costly are schemes to provide the European side of the city with an underground metro system (which will cost \$900 million) and to build a tunnel under the Bosphorus to connect Europe to Asia with a mass transit link (\$600 million).

Both projects will require hard bargaining with the central treasury in Ankara. While Dr Süzen has already cut the ribbon at a ground-digging ceremony for the metro, this is more the launch of political campaign to get the funds than proof that the finance for the entire project is in place.

Two obstacles stand in the city's way. The first is the new uncertainty over the ability of the coalition in Ankara to stay in power, since the defection of some 40 SHP MPs. The other is the treasury's lack of enthusiasm for large public-spending projects at a time when Turkey's inflation is already running at 70 per cent.

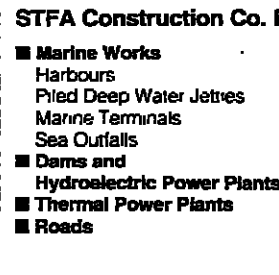
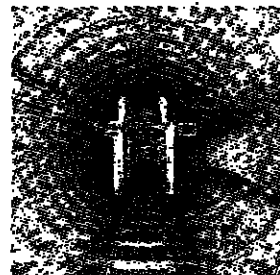
Many believe the municipality should now take stock of its own revenue potential by doing more to rationalise its payroll after a recent round of generous wage negotiations, charge for services or simply install parking meters.

However great its problems, Istanbul is still a victim of its own success. The better it copes, the more people it attracts, and the harder it has to try. In that sense the city resembles its large suspension bridges across the Bosphorus, that are now enshrined in the transport planning literature as classic examples of arteries that encourage building developments and thus create the very traffic they were designed to control.

Most of Istanbul's administrators agree that in many ways the infrastructural investments that will make the most difference are the ones many miles away from the city boundaries, in other parts of Turkey, that will encourage alternative centres of growth.

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Europe's Oldest Metropolis Of The Future

by Prof. Dr. Nurettin SÖZEN Mayor of Greater Istanbul



Founded in 622 BC, Istanbul reached a population of one million in the eleventh century and became the world's first metropolis. It served as the capital of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires and due to its unique urban structure, it was considered the ideal "multi-cultural" city before it was transformed into a modern metropolis. The fact that Istanbul is at the meeting point of Asia and Europe, shaped its identity as an urban melting pot, and consequently it developed not only as an important commercial center but also as a distinguished cultural focal point.

For those in the east it has been the doorway to Europe and, in reverse, a haven for Westerners who found it impossible to sustain their intellectual existence particularly in the last century. Istanbul has been a meeting point for the cultures of the East and West, a place where different religions and political ideologies have coexisted. The city's history is a testament to its unique position as a bridge between the East and the West.

Istanbul University, established in 1304 AD and the oldest in Europe, laid down the intellectual foundations of the city's cosmopolitanism. The city's history is a testament to its unique position as a bridge between the East and the West. The city's history is a testament to its unique position as a bridge between the East and the West.

The tradition of administering the city is far deeper rooted than most Capital Cities in Europe or elsewhere. There has always been a local administration office where the City Hall stands today since Roman times. This is because this site is the accepted centre of the old city, marked by a stone still in existence. The courtyard of the Şehade Mosque across the road. It is no wonder that the present building that dates back to only 1960, observed the tradition.

On the other hand, the archive of the City of Istanbul is one of the most complete and detailed in the world, giving information about the Ottoman era in particular. A day-to-day account of all events have been recorded in minute detail, with lists of ships that arrived and ships which were fired, complete with the cargo they carried and reasons for the penalties. These records are a source for the city's identity and also the proof of its character directed to progress and striving towards the future.

Once equipped with this background information, it is easy to comprehend why Leonardo da Vinci proposed to build a bridge over the Bosphorus, why the second oldest metro in Europe (though only one kilometre long) was built in 1877, and how revolutionary designs for their times such as the Architects Armetios and Isidoros' Hagia Sophia and Architect Sinan's Süleymaniye were realized.

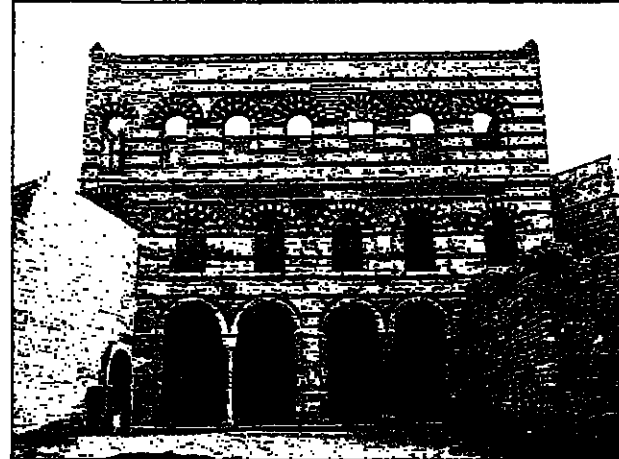
While making sure that these traditions are not lost, we are fully aware that Istanbul cannot be rooted in history alone. That is why we are preparing the population exceeding ten millions for the dynamics of the 21st Century. Istanbul today is a vibrant modern urban centre of international culture, politics and tourism as well as one of industry and commerce. It is Europe's largest and fastest developing metropolis, larger than (in population and area) 31 out of 41 European countries. The city which covers an area of approximately 6000 square kilometres, houses over 50 per cent of Turkey's industry and is responsible for over 50 per cent of all taxes collected in the country.

The population growth is one person per minute, thus half a million a year. 60 per cent of them constituted by the influx from the rural areas. While the city's present population constitutes one sixth of the country, it continues to grow at the rate of the equivalent of two Strasbourg a year, putting an enormous industrial and socio-economic stress on the systems and services for which local government is responsible. All these facts were naturally known to me and my team of specialists and I was fully prepared for the challenge, when I was elected in March 1989 on the Social Democratic ticket, on a platform of change based on human values entitled "People First".

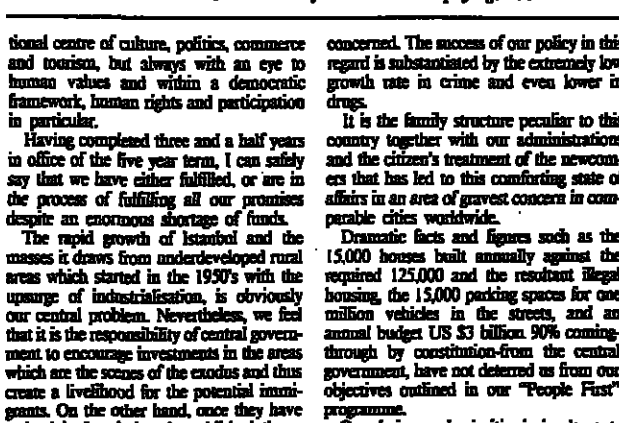
My detailed programme, which is the first of its kind in the history of Turkish local politics had many novelties, such as treating the protection of both the natural and historical environments as a major election issue. It was a long and hard campaign. The citizens of Istanbul supported my policies and I was elected with eleven points ahead of my closest opponent. My aim was to transform the city into a modern metropolis, while preserving its unique identity and heritage.



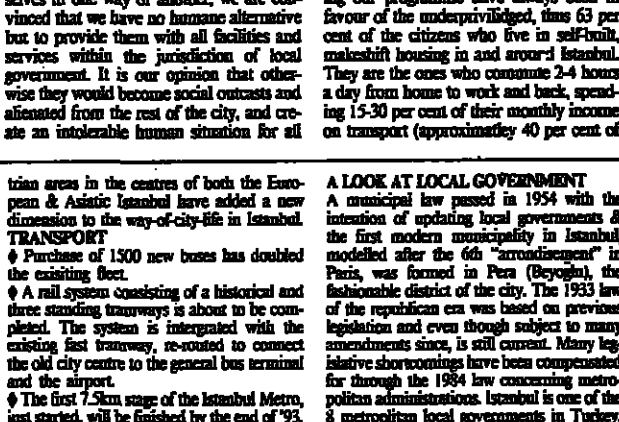
ROMAN ISTANBUL The Hippodrome of Valens



OTTOMAN ISTANBUL The Topkapı Palace

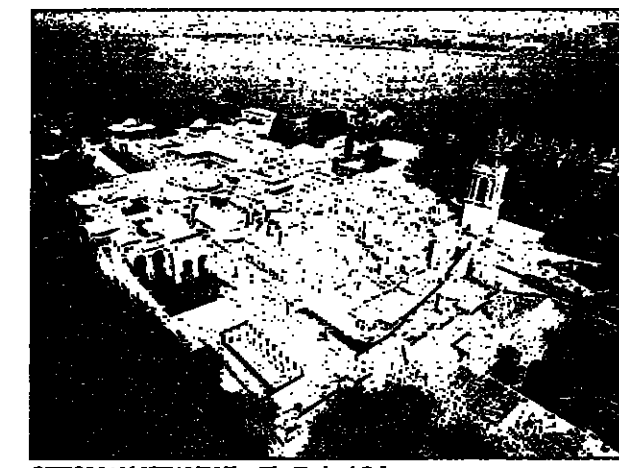


BYZANTINE ISTANBUL Palace of Constantine Porphyrogenitus

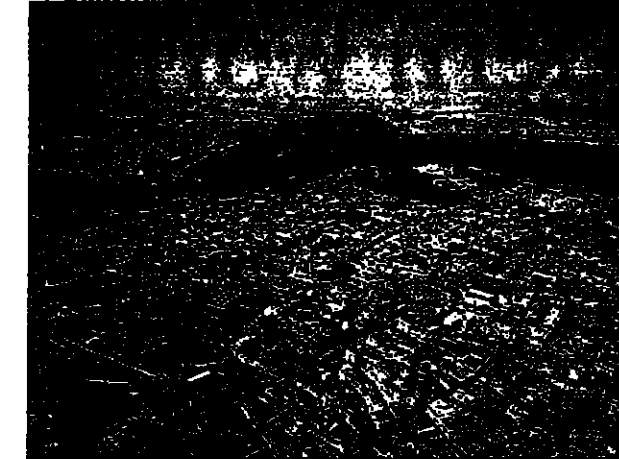


ISTANBUL TODAY The first metropolis of the world

concerned. The success of our policy in this regard is substantiated by the extremely low growth rate in crime and even lower in drugs. It is the family structure peculiar to this country together with our administrative system and the citizen's treatment of the new system that has led to this comforting state of affairs in an area of greatest concern in comparable cities worldwide. Domestic facts and figures such as the 15,000 houses built annually against the required 125,000 and the resident illegal population of 150,000 are a testament to the success of our policy. Our choices and priorities in implementing our programme have always been in favour of the underprivileged, thus 63 per cent of the citizens who live in self-help, self-constructed housing, and around Istanbul. They are the ones who constitute 2-4 hours a day from home to work and back, spending 15-30 per cent of their monthly income on transport (approximately 40 per cent of them receive minimum pay which is US \$130 Net).



OTTOMAN ISTANBUL The Topkapı Palace



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Even though the police, hospitals and schools are not our responsibility and even though we are bound by the authority of central government in items for which we are responsible (we have recently put forward proposals for decentralisation to the central government which would bring some of the institutions under the control of the local government) we have been doing our best within our means to invest throughout the city but in the things in particular. Our investments this year together with our 23 companies in cash and credit, will be higher than that of any company in the history of Turkey in the private or public sector. By these investments, I believe that our local government will be acting as the catalyst for the urban development of the city, which will be a major step towards the city's future.

Shortage of water, which has been one of the city's major problems ever since its foundations is slowly being solved through short and long term projects. The acute shortage arising from last year's drought has been overcome with plenty for the next three years, while new dams, reservoirs and the like are underway to ensure the supply for the decades to come. The creation of extensive parks and green belts have already not only compensated for, but surpassed by millions of square metres the green areas lost in the past through concrete blocks and high rise buildings allowed for the benefit of not the citizens at large, but a handful of investors. By the same vision, modern, pedestrian

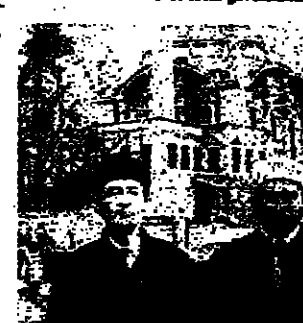
areas have been created both in the old and modern parts of the city, which has brought a new dimension to the way of most life, generally very rich and considered the life blood of urban existence in Istanbul. Our emphasis on the correctness of municipal actions, led to the stoppage of a number of buildings with urban landscape and saved further natural and aesthetic pollution of the city. Our firm belief in democracy and democratic rule, led us to introduce means of participation for all in hope that in the future such participation will be part of the administrative machinery. Even though the social democrats have an overall majority of 108 in the 148 member Greater Istanbul Municipal Council, most of the critical decisions have been taken by the council and / or consultations with professional bodies, with the participation of citizens in open forums and the like, later published in book form for the benefit of all interested. Many comparatively minor but significant projects likely to affect the social and / or economic structure of the city are also under way. Just to mention a few, the Municipal TV and radio stations designed to act as a source of objective city information and general to give a voice to professional groups and citizens who do not have a chance to make their opinions heard sufficiently in the media about to start broadcasting. A sports hall in the centre of the city is in the process of being transformed into a badly needed congress hall for 2500.

While the highly subsidised six stages of the municipal theatre and concert hall continue to delight citizens, our administration is in the process of being transformed into a body needed congress hall for 2500.

In our age of global democratisation, the past played by city governments is inevitably increasing. However, cities are not, in some ways so far seen, solely areas of production and consumption. They are the source of all human separations and creative activity that lead to cultural and products of the future. I feel that one of our main tasks is therefore to ensure a balanced development between forces of technology and human values crucial for the shape of things to come. That is the reason why in both the selection of projects and their implementation we have always considered "People First" whatever the cost.

I believe that Istanbul, the trend-setter of the past, is once again striving to perform a vital function in the reshaping of Europe and indeed the world. We are developing inter-city on an international level and believe that, this is what makes Istanbul the heart of Europe at the crossroads of continents.

And that is why Istanbul, the cosmopolitan metropolis with three originally interwoven cultures which has developed into Europe's centre of Peace and Democracy throughout ages, will continue to live up to its reputation and success in a modern context in a not to distant future. That together with our effort to transform the city technologically into a multi-cultural international metropolis for tomorrow, will ensure the city's status as "Europe's Oldest Metropolis of the Future".



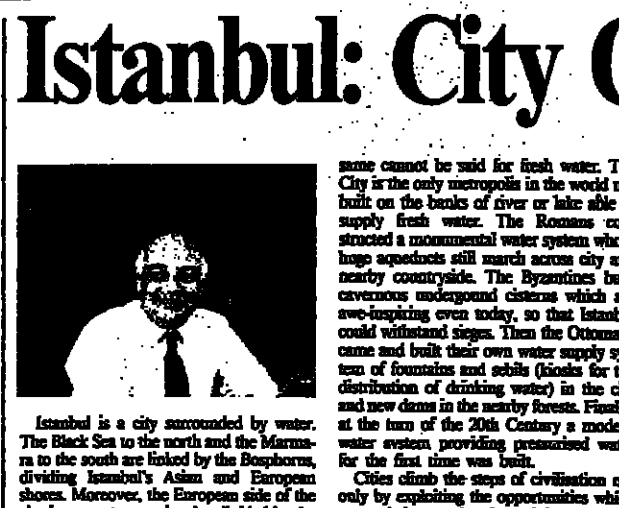
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Istanbul In Transition

CULTURE AND ARTS
 The local government spends approximately 7% of its budget on culture and arts - a very high percentage by Turkish standards.
 Running of the oldest and the most institutionalised stages in Turkey, the Istanbul Municipal Theatre, two of the most modern theatres, several of the city's museums, publication of high quality books on and about Istanbul have all led to a renaissance in the city's cultural life since 1989.
 The country's first modern arts museum in progress is amongst the many national and international initiatives.
FIGURES OF INTEREST
 * The area it covers is roughly 6000 km².
 * Largest district (Cadastral) is 1693 km².
 * Smallest district is 3 km².
 * Population density is 1,000,000 (1050 AD) to 1,213,000 (1992 AD) / km².
 * Number of districts is 60.
 * Number of districts is 60.
 * Number of districts is 60.
 * Number of districts is 60.

Istanbul: City Of Water

By Dr. Ergun Göknel
ISKI General Director
 Istanbul is a city surrounded by water. The Black Sea to the north and the Marmara Sea to the south are linked by the Bosphorus, dividing Istanbul's Asian and European shores. Moreover, the European side of the city is set on two peninsulas divided by the Golden Horn, a tapering inlet of the Bosphorus. This strategic position at the centre of the Old World, on a small island commands the entrance to the Black Sea from the Mediterranean, played a major role in Istanbul's historical development. Istanbul is a city of water, whose life is inseparable from the water. Water has played a major part in the religious traditions of both Muslims and Christians communities in Istanbul. Every effort was always made to keep water sources pure and prevent their illicit exploitation. But attitudes to water have changed, and the reverence which used to prevail has diminished. Today a new awareness of water and the environment needs to be instilled into our citizens, and no promotion forms a significant part of the activities of Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration (ISKI). As the city expands, reaching ever closer to its reservoirs, measures are being taken to prevent their pollution. ISKI invests more in the environment than any other Turkish organisation. Rapid urban development in Istanbul means conservation of water and the environment is a matter of urgency. In the process of urbanisation and industrialisation, Istanbul might seem to have forgotten the debt it owes to water, but in fact water conservation measures have proved that the city does not intend to repay this debt with ingratitudes. While water was once seen as merely one of several environmental issues, today the environment is virtually identified with water. This fragile substance is the first to be harmed by pollution, and the first to pay the consequences. As an indispensable element on which the survival of life on our planet depends, water heads the agenda of every environmental conservation programme. ISKI's primary function is to conserve and contribute significantly to the quality of life is adequate in quality and quantity. Secondly, the Administration undertakes long-term conservation measures to ensure the sustainability of water sources for future generations. The ecological restoration programme launched by ISKI is a vast undertaking of multidimensional dimensions. This programme is initiated by Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration, an affiliated body of Greater Istanbul Municipality, reflects the extent of our environmental awareness. One of the most progressive environmental programmes in the world is now being realised in Istanbul. A substantial network of gigantic tunnels



ISTANBUL TODAY The first metropolis of the world

Istanbul: City Of Water

crossing the length and breadth of the city will carry sewage to advanced treatment plants. These plants, which include the largest of their kind anywhere, will not only restore life to the Marmara Sea, but prevent pollution originating in Istanbul from affecting the Aegean and Black Sea. The cost of the four major sewage treatment plants to be built in the initial phase is US\$1,088 million. Conservation projects for the Orontes and Euphrates rivers, which are Istanbul's principal water sources involve investments of US\$467 million. An agreement has been reached with the World Bank for a loan of US\$1,079 million, which will account for 40 per cent of the cost of an investment programme totalling US\$2.6 billion. This programme covers the construction of sewerage treatment basins, protection of reservoir capacity basins, expansion of the water supply system. ISKI's investments in water and the environment are a realistic reflection of the scope of investment requirements in this field. For the first time in Istanbul's history, planning has been based on estimates of actual needs rather than available resources. The Administration's programme is to half its annual budget totalling US\$601.3 million to capital investments, and set its signature to monumental projects. As Turkey's sixth largest company investing, ISKI serves a population which is twice those of Israel or Norway, and equal to those of Belgium, Sweden and Bulgaria. ISKI is far more than a supplier of water, but an organisation which plays an active role in fulfilling Istanbul's responsibilities towards the environment.

Istanbul for pleasure: a visitor's guide

The Ottomans called Istanbul "Der-staader", the Gate of Felicity. Happiness is still to be found in the city, but most travellers now enter by the wrong gate. As the aircraft lands, the view is dominated by high-rise blocks of flats. The historic city lies in the dim distance to the north-east.

The sea is the proper gateway to Istanbul. The city was founded more than two thousand years ago by Greek colonists who came by sea. It grew around a natural harbour, and controlled the Bosphorus, the major north-south seaway of the ancient world.

From the sea, the panorama of Istanbul remains magnificent, despite the eruption of high-rise hotels and offices buildings north of the Golden Horn. The visitor should not delay a trip on the ferry which plies between the European and Asian shores of the harbour at the southern entrance to the Bosphorus, or one going up and down that narrow, twisting waterway. He will see the beauty of Istanbul as a whole before he visits its most famous monuments.

The monuments span two millennia and four cultures: Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman and modern international. They draw their inspiration from many sources, yet merge happily in a setting distinctly Turkish and Ottoman.

The Ottomans repaired the walls built in the 5th century by the Byzantine emperor Theodosius II. They built four minarets around the great church of Hagia Sophia, or divine wisdom (Ayasofya in Turkish), assimilating it in the magnificent complex of imperial mosques which are the glory of Istanbul. Their architects, of whom the most famous was Sinan (c.1492-1568), all had to react to Hagia Sophia — by imitation, emulation or contradiction.

To take the monuments in chronological order, the visitor would have to start up and down the busy roads of the old city. Proximally is a better principle. Start with Hagia Sophia, and then move to its neighbour, the huge mosque of Sultan Ahmet, known to visitors as the Blue Mosque from the colour of the tiles which decorate its interior.



The Grand Bazaar as well as tourist junk, this vast market offers quality craft-work

The sights, sounds and smells can bewilder tourists. Andrew Mango offers a path through the maze

Then lunch in Topkapı Sarayı, the Ottoman walled palace complex which entered European imagination as the Seraglio, or harem. Visit its pavilions, which house Islamic holy relics and the imperial collections of china and jewellery. Do not be disappointed at the absence of odalisques from the harem.

Admire the view from Seraglio point, where Byzantium began and the Byzantine great palace was built.

On the second day, move away from the sea to the greatest of Sinan's monuments in the city, the Süleymaniye, the mosque of Süleyman the Magnificent, and from there to the former church of St Saviour in Chora, now the Kariye Camii, a mosque, where the mosaics and frescoes are the illuminated colophon of Byzantine art, of

which Hagia Sophia is the striking first page. Nearby is the Edirnekapi, the Adrianople Gate, where Constantine XI, the last Byzantine emperor, is believed to have fallen on May 29, 1453, when Mehmet the Conqueror stormed the walls.

Take a break for lunch at Pandeli's in the spice market, Misir Çarşısı, and spend the afternoon shopping in the Grand Bazaar, the vast covered market. Kapalı Çarşı, where

there is gold as well as dross, jewels, carpets, leatherwork and much else. Treat the first visit as an introduction, then return at leisure. This itinerary can be continued for days. There are dozens of mosques worth visiting, small Byzantine churches, a huge underground cistern, the Genoese tower of Galata,

Ottoman palaces and mansions, Levantine churches, well-stocked shops, distinguished restaurants, and nightclubs with or without belly-dancers. Remember, however, that Istanbul is a bustling, working city. Allow time for traffic jams, accustom your ears to the din, and do not be depressed by the urban in-fill of jerry-built apartment houses and potholed pavements.

End your visit with dinner in one of the many restaurants on the shores of the Bosphorus. Some are expensive by Turkish standards, others remarkably modest. My favourite is a simple watering hole in Bebek, a former village.

Drink raki, the aniseed-flavoured spirit which, tolerant Muslims believe, escapes the prohibition of alcohol imposed by their religion, because it is not expressly mentioned in the Koran. Enjoy the succession of mezes (hors d'oeuvres); follow them up with fish, if you are greedy. Admire the silhouette of an unpretentious 19th-century mosque reflected in the water of the Bosphorus.

Few people in Istanbul can be unaware of the city's long and dramatic history. Quite apart from the most prominent monuments — the Roman aqueduct, the great church, later a mosque, of Hagia Sophia, the imperial mosques, the sultans' palaces — there are innumerable lesser relics of the past.

A column erected by Constantine the Great, the Roman emperor, towers over a tram stop. Further along the same street, one comes upon the tombs of three Ottoman sultans. They are reminders that the city was successively capital of the whole Roman Empire, of the Byzantine Empire and, from its capture in 1453 by the Turks under Mehmet II the Conqueror, of the Ottoman Empire.

Istanbul had small beginnings. The city's known history begins with the foundation in the 7th century BC of the Greek city of Byzantium, traditionally by Byzas of Megara. This early Byzantium had a strong position on the Bosphorus and became rich, but it played a minor part in ancient Greek history.

Its transformation came in AD 324 when Constantine the Great became sole ruler of the Roman Empire and decided to move the capital from Rome to Byzantium.

He did this because of its strategic position in the rich, eastern part of the empire, and set about building a new, enlarged city, which became known as Constantinople.

Constantinople's fortunes fluctuated with those of the Roman and later the Byzantine empires. In the 5th century, Theodosius II decided to extend it further by building new walls, and these held off Attila the Hun.

In the 6th century, a revolt broke out in the Hippodrome against Justinian, which left much of the centre in ruins. Justinian began a rebuilding programme which included the architectural masterpiece, the church of Hagia Sophia.

There were many outbreaks of violence over the centuries, but Constantinople was a magnet for Venetians, Genoese and other traders from the Italian city-states, and the Galata tower, built by the



The Harem: the Sultan's Hall at the Topkapı palace

Peter Strafford looks back at the turbulent history of a city which is more than 2,500 years old

Genoese in the 14th century, is a survival of those days. The city survived sieges by Avars, Arabs and Bulgars. At the opening of the 11th century, it was at the peak of its power.

From then it went into decline, particularly after the defeat of the Byzantine army by the Seljuk Turks at Manzikert in 1081. In 1204 it was sacked by Crusaders and came under "Latin" rule.

In 1261 the Byzantines recovered Constantinople, but they steadily lost power to the Ottoman Turks, who finally took the city on May 29, 1453.

The Turks transformed the city from a Greek Orthodox to a Muslim capital. Hagia Sophia became a mosque, as did many of the other churches. An Orthodox community remained, however, and has done so to this day,

though much reduced, headed by the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople.

There is also a Jewish community. When, in 1492, Ferdinand and Isabella decided to expel the Jews from the newly united Spain, many of them came to the Ottoman Empire, where they were welcomed as bringing an infusion of talent.

Some of their successors are still in Istanbul, still speaking Ladino, and they include some leading businessmen.

Ottoman monuments dominate Istanbul, particularly the great mosque complexes of the earlier sultans and the Western-style palaces built along the Bosphorus last century.

The empire reached its peak in the 16th century under Süleyman the Magnificent, and his mosque, the

Süleymaniye, is one of several masterpieces by Sinan, the supreme Ottoman architect. The Blue Mosque was built on the orders of Ahmet I in the 17th century.

The centre of Ottoman power was the Topkapı palace. Here was the original seat of the Divan, the highest executive and judicial body of the empire, headed by the Grand Vizier, and also the Harem, essentially the living quarters of the sultan, his wives and their children, and the eunuchs who looked after them.

At the beginning of the 17th century the Divan began to meet more often at the Grand Vizier's own residence outside the palace. This was known as the Sublime Porte, from its doorway, and the name came to designate the government as a whole.

By last century, the Topkapı palace was too old-fashioned, and the sultans moved to the Dolmabahçe palace on the Bosphorus. When a Turkish republic was established by Atatürk in the 1920s, he used the Dolmabahçe as his presidential residence in Istanbul, dying there in 1938.

A Crimean memorial has been restored by a surprising alliance

Revived by goodwill

In the backstreets of what is, after all, the former Byzantium and a city no stranger to ecclesiastical brawls, a holy alliance has been formed among the smart set of Istanbul's expatriate professionals and a community of the stateless and dispossessed. Between them they have managed to irritate many people, from the city authorities to the British diplomatic corps and the Bishop of Gibraltar, whose diocese extends from Lisbon to Mongolia.

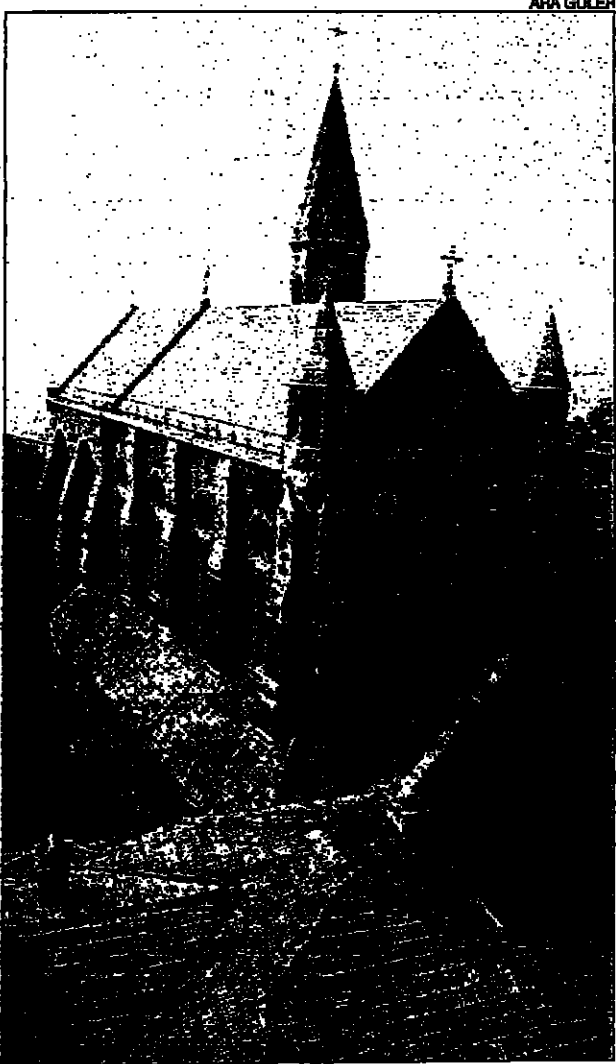
In particular, they have succeeded in bringing about the near-miraculous restoration of the Crimean Memorial Church in the district of Beyoğlu, formerly Pera, which John Freely, the historian of Istanbul, describes as one of the city's one hundred most important buildings. The church, which was founded in 1858 to commemorate the British dead in the Crimean War, is by George Street, the architect of the London law courts, and was paid for by public subscription in Britain.

The restoration is still controversial, and when the Archbishop of Canterbury visits Istanbul next week as the guest of the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch, he will disappoint many of his own faithful by not coming to see the church.

The Crimean Church was closed in 1976 by order of the Right Rev John Sanerthwaite, the Bishop of Gibraltar, at a time when Istanbul was rocked by urban terrorism and the Anglican community was reduced to a small number of Levantine families. Sunday communion was transferred to a chapel inside the high walls of the British consulate general, a building that once served as Britain's embassy to the Sublime Porte, the Ottoman imperial government.

After that the church was allowed to disintegrate, a victim of neglect and vandalism. Local children threw stones through the stained-glass windows. Most of the furniture was systematically removed. Even the chapel, which was never consecrated, was stripped of its valuable Victorian encaustic tiles.

Three years ago, in an effort to find a use for the building, which was feared to be in danger of collapse, the Bishop of Gibraltar responded positively to a scheme put forward by the Istanbul municipality to lease



Landmark: George Street's memorial church of 1858

the building as a cultural centre. Negotiations began. All reckoned without the enthusiasm of the priest, Father Ian Sherwood, however, and of the congregation, who supported him. Soon after the talks began, they decided to move back into the Crimean Church in defiance of the bishop.

The view of the Bishop of Gibraltar was that the idea was "fantastic" and "starry-eyed". There was no point, he said, in propping up an ancient building. He in effect put Father Sherwood on probation for an act of disobedience.

Restoration proved possible, however, because the foreign community had changed. The

Foreign Office had previously estimated that a survey of the building would alone cost £20,000. But by this time there were expatriates in Istanbul who possessed the skills and were prepared to do it for nothing. Civil engineers who had come to oversee highway

construction or the erection of new five-star hotels, climbed up on to the king post trusses supporting the roof and de-

clared it to be in decent shape. The directors of British firms donated money for the restoration of church and vicarage. The event which sparked the move back to the church was the Gulf crisis. Security precautions at the consulate general meant that Sunday

worshippers had to be turned away. At the same time the crisis brought to Istanbul a small wave of refugees, including Chaldean Christians from Iraq and Sri Lankan Tamils who had been working in Kuwait.

Most had no papers and nowhere to go. They found their way to cheap hotels near by, where Father Sherwood helped them get refugee status. At one point the chapel of the church became a dormitory to house them, and the vestry a kitchen that fed a hundred people a day. Among these people were carpenters, glaziers, electricians and plasterers, and they set to work.

An 1858 account in *The Times* described how the imam of the mosque next door watched the foundation ceremony from his minaret before summoning his own faithful to prayer. That mosque is still there.

So is the Crimean Church, and today it has new tiles and gutters on the roof, its stained-glass windows have been repaired, and decades of filth and bird droppings have been removed. There is fresh gravel on the paths, the lawns are green and the flowerbeds are in bloom.

The vicarage, for years no better than a derelict shack, has been turned into a freshly-painted cottage.

Both the original congregation and the current community consider it important to have a presence not only in this "most open-minded of Muslim countries" — the foundation of the church was a sign of Ottoman tolerance — but at the point where the Eastern and Western churches meet. "It's more than a church open on Sunday," said Ruth Briddock, a schoolteacher from Doncaster and a new churchwarden. She was sorry, she said, that the Bishop of Gibraltar had not come to see what they had accomplished.

This week, however, there will be a visit by the Venerable Geoffrey Evans, archdeacon of the Aegean and the Danube, acting as an emissary of the bishop. The congregation hope that this will lead to the lifting of the decision to penalise the priest for his actions, and the reconsecration of their church.

ANDREW FINKEL

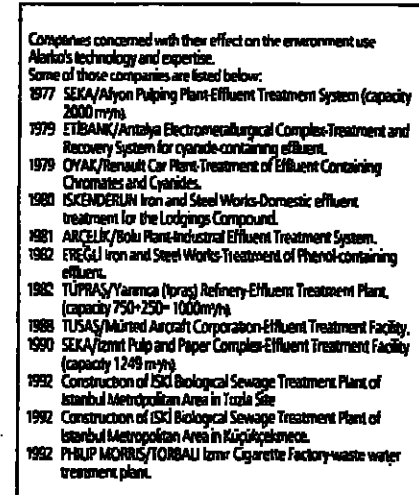
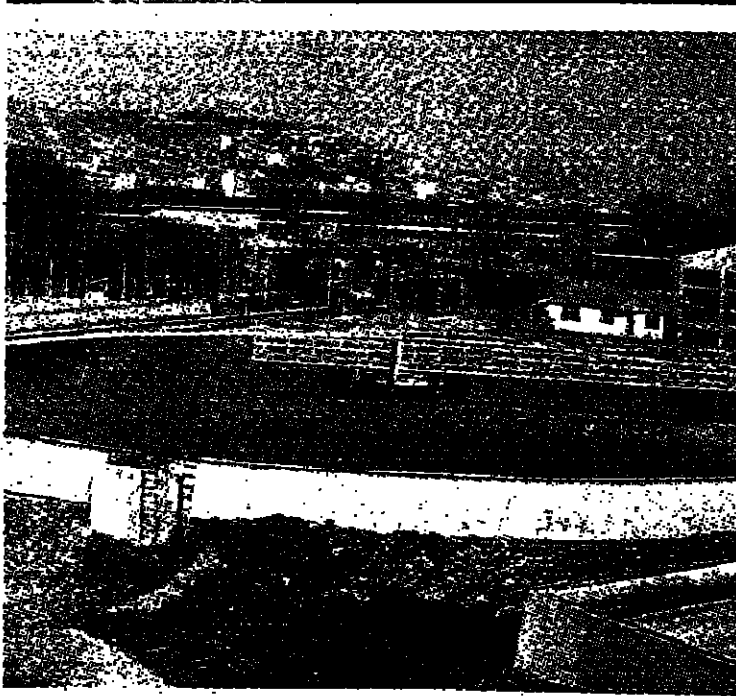
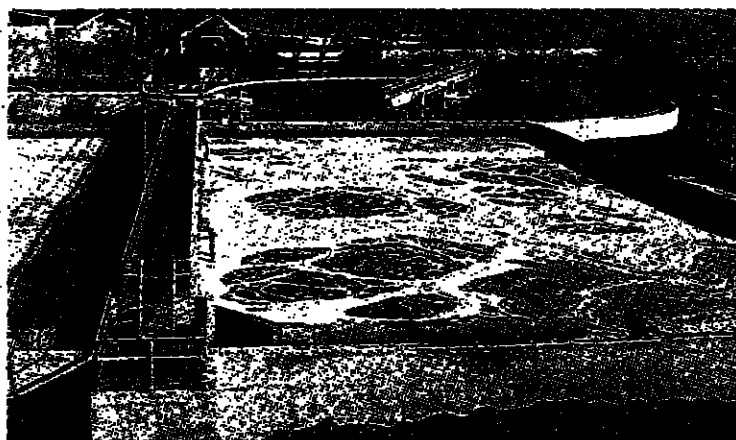
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LAW TIMES

In defence of the Eves

Valerie Grove catches up with the fast-moving, fast-thinking Helena Kennedy

Picture: ladies and gentlemen of the jury, the law in person. Is it a tall, Oxbridge-educated male or a small, working-class female with a Glaswegian accent? That will be for you to decide on October 29 at *The Times/Dillons* debate, *Is the Law Male?*, to be chaired by Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, chairman of the Bar Council. Leading for the prosecution will be Helena Kennedy, QC, who has played no small part in the *Me? A Puir Wumman?* as we once heard her plead in a Granada TV hypothetical on surrogate motherhood in saving the image of the law in her 20 years at the criminal bar.

She did not set out to specialise in defending women driven to kill their violent husbands, though that lately has been her forte. But her forthcoming book, *Eve Was Framed: Women and British Justice* (from Chatto), covers the broader spectrum of women in courtrooms, as defendants, victims and lawyers.

The lady lawyer seen in television drama — who always gets too involved with her client — wears sharp little suits with nipped-in waists. Ms Kennedy favours these herself, and was in a pink suit with purple when we met. Under her curls (tied back demurely in court) she talks as fast as she thinks, which is at the gallop. That Helena Kennedy became the nation's favourite Portia — as an outsider thrice over, being female, non-Oxbridge and the daughter of a *Glasgow Daily Record* printer — is remarkable in itself. When she threw up Glasgow University to read for the Bar at Gray's Inn, her perplexed relatives thought she had gone into the catering trade. What she had to do was eat her dinners — a rite of passage among puerile upper-class twits as described in her book. She would do away with all such obsolete habits, she says, along with the wig: which the men cling to not because of the anonymity it confers, but because it disguises their balding pates. The best use she found for a tatty old wig was to display it in the window of her house (which used to be the late R.D. Laing's), as a burglar told her thieves don't like to do legal households.

Whenever a woman steps into court, she says, her fate is sealed: how far does she match up to expectation? Is she a Good Woman, or a Bad Girl? Attitudes of judge and jury may have little to do with the facts. Whatever has happened to her must have been, as with Eve, partly her fault.

Why was she out at night? Why did she let him take her home? Why was she wearing that dress? Why didn't she leave? Why isn't she crying? What does she mean by being pregnant? And most notoriously of all: has she not frayed? Male judges' sus-



Modest: Helena Kennedy, QC, just "a puir wumman"



Lord Williams of Mostyn

ceptibility to the appearance of women in court, most memorably Mr Justice Causfield's (Ms Kennedy calls this chapter 'The Fragrant Woman'), is one aspect. The woman who fails to conform to "good wife" behaviour — for example Lady Chamberlain, the dingo who did not cry — must be guilty.

In harrowing familiar summaries, Ms Kennedy tells of murdered women re-murdered in court, their reputations traduced so that the killer can get off with manslaughter because she "provoked" him. Nobody will forget Mr Justice Miskin's infamous words to Nicholas Boyle, who had calmly chopped up and cooked his wife Christabel's body: "You were a loving husband who was nagged beyond endurance. Capital punishment, we now realise, is still sanctioned by judges in this country for wives who 'nag'."

In *Eve Was Framed*, Ms Kennedy deliberately avoids feminist jargon. But what she is describing is a *Through the Looking Glass* world, where an actor wins £50,000 for being called boring, a woman hideously trusted and raped gets £1,000 compensation, while her rapist is himself awarded £45,000 for the car crash injuries which allegedly caused his unfortunate personality change.

We often question judges' pronouncements on women and sex — about how they ask for it, and say no when they mean yes, and how the trauma suffered by the girl grotesquely

raped in the Ealing vicarage was in Mr Justice Leonard's view "not so very great". What secret obsessions and peculiar histories lurk beneath those ragged old wigs? But no judge is ever going to say to another, "Come on Charlie, we've got to be more careful what we say," says Ms Kennedy. "They are like rabbits caught in the headlights, they can't help going on saying these things — like Mr Justice Lee the other day, telling the man in the dock, 'Women always cause trouble'."

So, men who kill women for nagging them continue to receive suspended or lenient sentences; women, by contrast, may have no such defence of provocation even after years of being battered if one day the worm turns. "Battered woman syndrome" is an expression Ms Kennedy dislikes, because it is a "gender defence". But as Dr Susan Edwards pointed out in *Woman's Hour* last week, if men say "I lost control" and the court accepts that, that is how men behave, that is a gender defence.

"I don't think it serves women well, to create a specific defence," Ms Kennedy says. "The psychological reaction to long-term violence is the same as if it happened to a man, as a captive or as a child. 'Battered woman syndrome' is a *cul-de-sac* for women." Cases like that of the confrontational Sara Thornton, who never looked like a downtrodden wife, only muddy the provocation issue (provocation always had to be in the heat of the moment, not a long-term, smouldering plot) which has yet to be resolved.

The war between the sexes is changing. Ms Kennedy says the women coming into the profession, in greater numbers than ever, "no longer feel they have to see the world through their male colleagues' eyes to succeed, but are prepared to see through the eyes of the saddest and most powerless victims". But there are still only 19 women among 426 circuit judges; and even the admirable women at the very top, like Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, are "reluctant to rock the professional boat". To become

INNS AND OUTS

Cameras rolling in

TELEVISION in the courts in England and Wales may not be far away, after the lead taken in Scotland. Much will depend on what success the Bar has in finding an MP high in the private member's ballot to take on its case for lifting the statutory ban on cameras in court. Meanwhile, progress has been made in edging the courts into accepting the communications technology of this century. Two journalists were spotted with tape recorders in the recent Mona Bauwens libel trial (tape recorders have always been banned). However, when they were drawn to the attention of the judge, Mr Justice Drake, he said he did not object to their having been used, as long as the reporters used them to check their notes and not for broadcasting. He also made no objection to two courtroom artists sitting in court and sketching the proceedings as they took place. Normally they have to rush out and try to commit their memories to canvas.

TV training
HOT on the heels of the launch last week of Accountancy TV comes news that the joint Law Society-College of Law television venture, Legal Network Television (LNTV), will start broadcasting in late November. LNTV will produce two half-hour programmes weekly, concentrating on education and training. The programmes, which will go out on BBC Select's night-time service, will be "in-clear" for the first two months and thereafter "encrypted" for reception by subscribers only. LNTV suggests that users should record the programmes and incorpo-



EVE WAS FRAMED
WOMEN AND BRITISH JUSTICE

Publish and be damned: a look at women in courtrooms

will not go away and the law, says Ms Kennedy, must begin to take some account of women's lives and how they differ from men's. "Prosecutors challenge women — 'If you were so badly abused, how could you look after your children, and go to work?' and 'Why didn't you leave?' — not understanding the long-term effects of violence, the crippling state of low self-esteem and chronic powerlessness."

But women are not by any means a homogenous group, and Ms Kennedy would agree that some behave in indefensible ways over men, for example the ones who write love letters to the Yorkshire Ripper. She has defended men charged with rape, and secured their acquittal.

We are told the legal system is changing. Ms Kennedy says the women coming into the profession, in greater numbers than ever, "no longer feel they have to see the world through their male colleagues' eyes to succeed, but are prepared to see through the eyes of the saddest and most powerless victims". But there are still only 19 women among 426 circuit judges; and even the admirable women at the very top, like Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, are "reluctant to rock the professional boat". To become

Polish first
THE British Centre for English Legal Studies in Warsaw is launched this week — the first academic institution in Eastern Europe to spring from the new links between lawyers from Eastern and Western Europe since the Iron Curtain came down. The centre will offer a one-year course in English and European Community law for young Polish lawyers. The best 12 graduates will have three-month placements in British firms. The British government will help to fund the centre by giving £52,000 on a pound-for-pound basis. The centre is now appealing for help in raising its £52,000, a target that must be met in the next few months. Donations go to Juris Anglica, Scientists 16 Ridgmount Gardens, Bloomsbury, London WC1E 7AR.

Challenging
LAWYERS who like a challenge can pit their wits against the rest of the profession at the ActionAid Legal Brain Game. The charity, which works for children and families in poverty in 19 countries, is hosting the contest at the Café Royal, London, on November 4. George Melly, the entertainer and jazzman, will be the official quizmaster. Cameron Markby Hewitt and the chambers of Robin Jacobs QC are among the competitors, each of which must nominate a team of ten.

Anyone interested in competing should call Susannah Penk, 071-281 4101.

SCRIVENOR

When learned friends fall out in court

THE jury's failure to reach a verdict in Mona Bauwens's libel case against *The People* over an article suggesting that David Mellor should not have associated socially with her was a triumph for the newspaper.

Juries almost always reward libel plaintiffs who are rich or vain enough to gamble heavy legal costs by reviving for popular consumption a newspaper article long forgotten by everybody except the complainant.

What made this case of special interest to lawyers was the content of the closing speech by Richard Hartley QC on the plaintiff's behalf. He attacked the forensic methods adopted for the defendant by George Carman QC. Mr Hartley complained that Mr Carman presented "a music-hall turn as a stand-up comic". His cross-examination of the plaintiff was a "verbal mugging" that was "cruel and cowardly". His closing speech "painted a crude picture" of Mr Mellor. Not every advocate has unmitigated admiration for the eloquence, brevity and relevance of his opponent's submissions, but it is rare for one counsel to comment in stark terms on the performance of another.

Acrimonious disputes between counsel are not unknown. Sir Henry Hawkins, prosecuting in the perjury trial of the Tichborne claimant in 1873, recalled that his "opponent sought day by day some cause of quarrel with me. At times he was most insulting, and grew almost hourly worse, until I was compelled, in order to stop his insults, to declare openly that I would never speak to him again on this side of the grave, and I never did".

In 1908, High Court proceedings were "disturbed by an outbreak of fistuluffs between two King's Counsel". In a 1956 judgment, the Court of Appeal lamented that the trial had been marred by a constant "wrangling or quarrelling or bickering between counsel".

Such exceptions prove the rule that, in the UK, advocates usually remain on amicable terms in court with their learned friends. So prized are the reputations of counsel for civility towards each other that in 1988 two Northern Ireland QCs were each awarded £50,000 libel damages for a newspaper article that falsely suggested they had squabbled in a shop about which of them should have the opportunity to buy the last available chocolate éclair.

English law provides little guidance on how far counsel can go in being rude about a colleague. Advocates about to submit that their opponent does not measure up to

Cicero might welcome guidance on what courts in the United States have regarded as professional fouls.

In recent years, counsel have been found to be in contempt by American courts for a variety of unfattering comments about the professional abilities and ethics of their opponents. The Supreme Court of Indiana pronounced in 1978 that defence counsel should not tell the jury that the prosecutor was "so lacking in mental capacity as not being able to find his way to the toilet".

A prosecutor who suggested it would be pointless "to go on a search party with defence counsel for truth" was criticised by the Supreme Court of Kansas in 1975. The District Court of Appeal in Florida concluded in 1989 that a defence attorney should not have "asked the jury if they would buy a used car from the prosecutor".

When your opponent declines to agree to the adjournment of a hearing, it was suggested the Supreme Court of Indiana when disbaring a lawyer in 1978, inappropriate for an advocate to respond: "You snake son of a bitch, that leaves but one thing for me to do, to go down and load up both barrels of my gun, and I'll getcha."

Last May, a New York judge fined a male attorney for telling his female opponent during the taking of evidence from a witness: "I don't have to talk to you, little lady." In 1988, a California defence lawyer announced he was to appeal in the case of a client convicted of breaking and entering because, he alleged, his closing speech to the jury was interrupted by the prosecuting attorney, who had "farted about 100 times".

By contrast, it is important to bear in mind that advocates should not get on too close terms with an opponent. In 1985, the California Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by a defendant convicted of assault with intent to commit rape. The successful ground was that, unknown to him during the trial, there was "an ongoing dating relationship" between his counsel and the prosecutor. The court was concerned that this relationship might make defence counsel "reluctant to engage in abrasive confrontation with opposing counsel during settlement negotiations and trial advocacy".

To suggest that any counsel practising at the libel bar might be guilty of being insufficiently abrasive would, of course, be grossly defamatory.

The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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IS THE LAW MALE?

Helena Kennedy, QC, leads this *Times/Dillons* debate on injustice in the British legal system, looking in particular at the treatment of women in our courts. Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, chairman of the Bar Council, will chair the debate, with the motion being opposed by the barrister Christina Gorna. The debate will take place on Thursday, October 29 at 7.15pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, WC1. Tickets are available from October 9. *Times* readers can obtain tickets by filling in the coupon below.

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No power over legal aid order

Regina v Isleworth Crown Court, Ex parte Willington
Before Lord Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Jowitt
[Judgment July 28]

The Divisional Court did not have jurisdiction to entertain judicial review of the decision of a crown court judge to refuse a prior legal aid order.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in refusing an application for judicial review brought by Kevin Willington of the decision of Judge Miller on June 22, 1992 revoking the discharge of legal aid previously discharged on June 17, 1992.

Mr Richard Gordon for Mr Willington; Mr Stephen Richards for the crown court; Mr Andrew Colman for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN said that Mr Willington was charged with two counts of fraudulent trading and a further nine counts of obtaining money by deception. He instructed solicitors. By letter of June 4 and an application on June 12 the solicitors made an application for an adjournment on the basis that the defence was not ready to proceed. That application was refused.

On the same day Mr Willington applied for the transfer of his legal aid certificate since he had lost all confidence in the solicitors. That application was also refused.

On June 17, Mr Willington applied to Judge Miller to have his legal aid certificate discharged. He was represented on that occasion by another firm of solicitors. The certificate was discharged but the judge again refused to adjourn the

trial. On June 18, Mr Willington approached his present solicitors. They instructed counsel to appear on June 22 who applied for the case to be adjourned to allow proper preparation of the defence.

The judge refused that application although the judge indicated that a short adjournment would be allowed for Mr Willington, who was not then legally aided or represented generally, to obtain representation and make an application for legal aid.

Counsel informed the court that any application for legal aid would be made for Mr Willington's present solicitors, that being the firm of solicitors of Mr Willington's choice.

The judge stated that the case was suitable for legal aid and he purported to reinstate Mr Willington's original legal aid certificate previously discharged on June 17, by revoking his order discharging the original legal aid certificate.

It was contended on behalf of Mr Willington that the judge had no jurisdiction to revoke a previous discharge of a legal aid certificate; that the judge had no jurisdiction to reinstate a legal aid certificate once discharged; that the effect of the judge's order was to circumvent the right of a person entitled to representation to select a solicitor under section 32(1)(a) of the Legal Aid Act 1988 and the judge had no power to select the legal representative of a person appearing before him contrary to his wishes.

Two questions arose in the application:

(1) Did the Divisional Court

have jurisdiction to hear the application?

(2) If the answer to (1) was yes, whether the judge had jurisdiction to do what he did.

Their Lordships only heard argument on (1) since they were of the view that if there was no jurisdiction it was pointless and wrong to consider (2) since if Mr Willington was convicted that could be a point which the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, might have to decide.

As to their Lordships' jurisdiction, it was necessary to consider section 29(3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 which provided: "In relation to the jurisdiction of the crown court, other than its jurisdiction in matters relating to trial on indictment, the High Court shall have all such jurisdiction to make orders of mandamus, prohibition or certiorari as the High Court possesses in relation to the jurisdiction of an inferior court."

The vital words were "other than its jurisdiction in matters relating to trial on indictment".

Mr Gordon submitted that if the judge had no jurisdiction, his decision could not fall within the class of decisions properly classified as matters relating to trial on indictment.

The authorities of *R v Chichester Crown Court, Ex parte Abodunrin* (1984) 79 Cr App R 293; *In re Smalley* (1985) AC 622 and *In re Sampson* (1987) 1 WLR 194 were plainly against Mr Gordon.

Mr Gordon submitted, however, that *R v Manchester Crown Court, Ex parte DPP* (The Times July 29) extended the law so that whenever a crown court decided a point of

jurisdiction, a right to apply for judicial review of that decision lay to the Divisional Court.

In his Lordship's judgment the court there had not done that and no extension of the law was necessary for the decision in that case.

Mr Gordon's next point was based on section 46 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 the side-note to which read "Exclusive jurisdiction of crown court in trial on indictment".

The point Mr Gordon sought to make was that the right to grant legal aid was not exclusive to the crown court since the magistrates could also grant it. He then went back to section 29(3) and argued that the words "other than its jurisdiction in matters relating to trial on indictment" meant other than exclusive jurisdiction.

In his Lordship's judgment section 46 did not incorporate the word "exclusive".

Finally Mr Gordon submitted that if Mr Willington's application was refused and a trial took place and he was convicted there was no certainty that any appeal by him would succeed.

That was true but the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, could allow an appeal if it thought that by reason of an unlawful decision of the judge to refuse Mr Willington the lawyer of his choice, he was thereby occasioned harm. The application for judicial review would be refused.

Mr Justice Jowitt delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Bindman & Partners; Treasury Solicitor: CPS, Acton.

Disclosing wardship documents

In re M (a Minor)
Before Lord Justice Balcombe, Lord Justice Leggatt and Sir John Megaw
[Judgment July 31]

In deciding whether documents in wardship proceedings should be disclosed to a former ward, two factors (a) that the former ward wished to institute proceedings and (b) that it was in the public interest that all relevant information should be available in those proceedings, outweighed any detriment to children's proceedings generally by the possibility that in future such cases witnesses, and in particular professional witnesses, would feel inhibited from being totally frank.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Leeds City Council against a decision of Mr Justice Halls on January 31, 1992 whereby he had upheld an order of a district judge on August 16, 1991 that the wardship documents should be disclosed for the purpose only of applying for legal aid, of obtaining such professional advice as was necessary in relation to the proposed proceedings.

Mr Shaun Spencer, QC and Mr James Goss for the former ward; Mr James Wadsworth, QC and Mr Julian Picken for Leeds City Council.

LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE said that in the present state of the authorities, and subject to anything that might be said by the House of Lords should the question come before them, he could summarise the principles applicable to the disclosure of material used in proceedings relating

to children as follows:

1 The interests of the particular child concerned would always be the most important factor, since it was to protect those interests that the court imposed the curtain of privacy.

2 Where the child was still a minor, the court would have to decide where his interests lay, although the older the child the more relevant would be his own views and wishes.

3 Where the child concerned had attained majority, he alone, unless mentally incompetent, was entitled to decide what were his own views and wishes. That was the inevitable consequence under the law of the attainment of adult status.

4 If, as was usually the case, the

material was to be disclosed for use in other proceedings, the public interest in the administration of justice required that all relevant information should be available for use in those proceedings.

5 If it was the case that, in particular proceedings relating to children, information had been obtained on an express assurance of confidentiality, that must also be a very relevant factor. It would, however, be most undesirable for such an express assurance to be given unless the information could not otherwise be obtained.

6 Where no such express assurance had been given, persons who gave evidence in child proceedings could normally assume that their evidence would remain confidential. They were not entitled to

assume, however, that it would remain confidential in all circumstances.

His Lordship shared the view expressed by Lord Justice Ralph Gibson in *Brown v Matthews* (1990) Ch 662, 672 as to the attitude of persons involved in a professional capacity with children.

Certainly if social workers and others in a like position believed that the evidence they gave in child proceedings would in all circumstances remain confidential, then the sooner they were disabused of that belief the better.

Lord Justice Leggatt and Sir John Megaw delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Mrs Helen Marshall, Leeds; McAra & Co, Leeds.

Calculating life sentence tariff

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Parker
Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Tucker
[Judgment July 6]

The Home Secretary was entitled, in the exercise of his discretion, to calculate a life prisoner's sentence tariff on the basis that the murderer continued to have premeditated even if the jury had indicated that they had convicted him of a spur-of-the-moment killing.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, dismissing an application by Norman Parker for a declaration that the secretary of state's decision to apply a tariff of

20 years to his sentence in 1970 of life imprisonment for murder was unreasonable.

Mr Jonathan Llewellyn Davies for the applicant; Mr David Pannick, QC, for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that the applicant had argued that he had been in prison for longer than could possibly be justified because the secretary of state had fixed his tariff on a basis which was seriously flawed because the verdict of the jury could only be taken as meaning that the killing had been carried out on the spur of the moment.

The question was whether, even if the jury had found the murder to

have been on the spur of the moment, the secretary of state was confined to that finding or whether he was entitled to look at other matters, including the evidence and the views of the trial judge and the Lord Chief Justice as to what the tariff should be.

In his Lordship's judgment, the secretary of state in the exercise of his discretion was entitled to take all those matters into account. Unless it could be demonstrated that he had not given proper weight to what the jury had found, the Divisional Court would not interfere.

Mr Justice Tucker agreed. Solicitors: Russell & Hallmark, Worcester; Treasury Solicitor.

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Mr. James Beck
Mr. David Hishop

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Mr. Ram Yajnik
Mr. Mario Addezio
Mr. Alan Landisbury
Mr. Stuart Trimmer
Mr. George Heimler
Miss Lesley Orm
Mr. Michael Boardman
Mr. Jeremy Ornstin
Miss Caroline Wright
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July 12, 1956

Mitchell Platts sees successful times ahead for European Tour after victory in the Solheim Cup

Women's golf ready for a revival

EUROPE's women golfers took a gigantic stride towards rebuilding a flourishing professional circuit when they overcame the United States in the Solheim Cup at Dalmahoy on Sunday.

The victory renewed the ambitions of the Women Professional Golfers' European Tour (WPGET), following four years of frustration when, for one reason or another, its schedule dwindled from 28 tournaments to nine.

It would not be right to attach all the blame to sponsors tightening their money-belts, for golf has mostly survived the recession. The WPGET lost friends and supporters because some members began to give the impression that the game owed them a living.

There has been no suggestion of that this year. The European players had transformed their image prior to their arrival at Dalmahoy. They prepared and played as a united force, unlike two years ago in Florida, where one player arrived less than 48 hours before the start and others failed to blend together.

Mickey Walker, Europe's captain, made it clear that such an outlook could not be tolerated again. She demanded, and received, the total co-operation of the team. Pam Wright, the Scot who plays regularly in the United States, demonstrated her support by paying a \$10,000 fine to the LPGA, so she could prepare for the Solheim Cup by competing in the British Open the previous week.

The reward for Wright, should she decide to play more frequently in Europe, and her team-mates is likely to be known by December. Andrea Doyle, the executive director of the WPG European Tour, is confident that Europe's win will encourage several sponsors with whom she is already negotiating to sign on the dotted line.

"We are aiming to build up to 28 events again and I am now convinced we can accomplish that," Doyle said. "I said when I took over in September of last year that I didn't have a magic wand, which is still the case, but we now have the best



High flyer: jubilant European players hold Walker aloft as they celebrate their Solheim Cup win at Dalmahoy on Sunday

golfers in the world, as we proved at Dalmahoy. I think we are on our way now, recession or no recession, and my aim is for the players to have regular competition from April through to October."

Mark McCormack, of the International Management Group, witnessed Europe's win and he had no hesitation in declaring it to be a watershed for the women's game.

"It will do for European golf what winning the Ryder Cup did for the men," he said. "This will provide them with the momentum to go out and secure whatever they want."

What is all the more com-

forting is that Laura Davies, arguably the best player in the world, and Walker maintained before the match began that Europe would win. Walker was delighted.

"We outplayed the best, the very best, the Hall-of-Famers and the major champions, and it's incredible, wonderful," she said. "It's not a miracle because we have the talent, but I think the Americans must be in shock. What we are looking forward to now is The Greenbrier, in West Virginia, in two years' time, because we want to show we can beat them on their home soil as well."

Walker will be the captain again. There can be no other choice. She is not only an inspirational leader, but a fine politician. Walker refused to become entangled in a protracted debate after Alice Miller, her American counterpart, spoke of a "week of adversity" and of there being "a little bit of discourtesy from the European team." Miller felt that the format was wrong because two players were excluded from playing in the foursomes and the fourballs, and was angry at one particular ruling which she felt made "Beth Daniel and Betsy King look fools."

Juli Inkster, one of the American players, was also less than pleased. She said: "There was a fiery relationship between the teams. I don't see any reason why two players should be forced to sit out and I don't think it's very sportsmanlike to do that. I don't think some of their players act the same way in the States as they acted here." Deb Richard, another US player, was visibly, and verbally, angry on the first tee with the starter simply because he failed to pronounce her name correctly.

Walker said that there were several other things that hap-

pened behind the scenes that she found no need to make public. She conceded that the match could be improved by implementing a Ryder Cup format in 1994 with a series of four foursomes and fourballs on each of the first two days. She sees no reason, however, to increase the number of players from ten or to remove the tactical option of leaving out players.

Walker, of course, used the rule book to her advantage in Scotland, but Europe won at Dalmahoy because they played better golf than their opponents. They have erased their second-class image.

Davies and Co highlight snub by broadcasters

By PETER BARNARD

The books pages and the television arts programmes have been busy of late dissecting new theories about the demise or otherwise of feminism. Perhaps the argument should spread to the sports pages, given the curious case of the missing golf over the weekend.

Pre-match hype, mostly generated by the Americans, had suggested that the European women might as well not bother to turn up for the Solheim Cup. This made Europe's spectacular victory all the more enervating, even if all we got to see of it on the terrestrial channels was less than two minutes tacked on to the end of the television news. Not so much history as mystery.

It was not as if the BBC's *Grandstand* on Saturday had much in the way of compelling alternatives. There were the usual racecards, plus the Bath marathon and a recording of Richie Woodhall's fight for the world middleweight title. Interesting, but hardly epoch-making.

Given the saturation coverage handed to the Ryder Cup, one would hope that the imbalance between that and the equivalent women's contest will be put right in future years, especially now that Laura Davies and the rest of the European team have shown that anything the men can do, they can do at least as well.

The highlight of the weekend on television was boxing, though not the Saturday afternoon version. In the evening we had, live on ITV, Nigel Benn's trip to Italy for the WBC super-middleweight world title clash with Mauro Galvao, an event which amply demonstrated what a farce boxing has become.

The summariser, Jim Watt, said early on that there was no use in going to Italy hoping for a points decision, but by the end of the third round, which turned out to be the end of the fight, any sort of decision had taken second place to the antics over how it was reached.

Before there was any verdict at all, we had a conversation along the following



Benn: chaotic scenes

lines between the reporter, Gary Newbon, and Benn: Benn: I don't want to say anything. I'm choked.

Newbon: I don't want you to say anything. I want to tell you something.

Benn: Yeah, well, all right.

Newbon: The Italians are saying it should be a technical draw, but...

Benn: I've worked four months for this...

Newbon: But Barry Hearn is in there arguing your case.

Benn: Yeah, well, I don't want to say anything.

At which point we had the experienced and able commentator, Reg Gutteridge, saying that the referee had been conned, even though there was no evidence to support him. A couple of minutes later the verdict was given to Benn and the referee had become "one of the best in the world."

The scene was chaotic. It made for wonderful television, but boxing was the loser and once again the question of having too many people, including reporters, in the ring at the end of a fight was raised. It is surely ridiculous to have boxers being asked to comment on a fight whose outcome, at that stage, was no more than rumour. Indeed, although Benn was soon jumping for joy, by the end of the transmission there was still no official announcement of the result.

Farce descended into fantasy when Benn was seen leaning over the ropes to talk to Chris Eubank. They agreed that they would fight each other next. Not that anyone alive can remember the last time a boxer had any say in who would be his next opponent.

The BBC's *Match of the Day* is fast turning into a goalkeeper's nightmare. On Saturday the pick of the goals came in the 3-3 draw between Ipswich Town and Leeds United and the 7-1 drubbing handed out to Norwich City by Blackburn Rovers, a demonstration that even if East Anglia's leading sides are not always winning, they are always entertaining.

Gary Lineker and Alan Hansen are performing well in the studio, but I rather miss the idiosyncratic Jimmy Hill. He could always be relied upon to start an argument among the viewers as well as one in the studio and would not have missed, as Lineker and Hansen did, the chance to have real go at Uefa when a genuine news story fell into the programme's lap. The news that Stuttgart would be "punished" for their rules transgression by replacing the Leeds tie at a neutral ground deserved some good old Hill derision rather than mild dismay.

Europeans possessed with the Solheim spirit

By PATRICIA DAVIES

THEY played like women possessed. Fed up with being written off, patronised and generally downgraded, the women of the European Solheim Cup team were bound together by a desire to dent what they saw as American arrogance in a way that could not be ignored, dismissed or explained away. They were on a mission to prove they were winners.

From the moment Laura Davies hit the second of two immense drives on to the first green — no other player was within 80 yards in two — the intentions were clear. The Europeans did not just want to beat the Americans, they wanted to mangle them. Davies did the leading from the front, like some super-

charged Seve, and she never had to look back to check on the support. It was all around her.

Florence Descampe, the team loner, who had lost to Beth Daniel, led the charge to embrace Catrin Nilsmark when she holed the winning putt. Later, as they all rushed off to bring in the last two matches, a spectator said: "What's the hurry? It doesn't matter now."

Descampe's retort said it all. "Winning is not enough. We have to get every point we can." With that, she was away — like the rest of the team — to make sure Liselotte Neumann and Dale Reid, the tail-end Charlenees, came home triumphant. They did. Trish Johnson, who made it three out of three for Europe when she beat Patty Sheehan

in the third match, explained that Neumann and Reid were in the pressure positions at the bottom because they were the two calmest members of the team. "Mind you, that's not saying much this week," Johnson said.

Two years ago, in the first Solheim Cup at Lake Nona, Helen Alfredsson, like several others in her side, was uncertain of herself and her right to be in the company of the likes of Pat Bradley and Betsy King. She was not exactly subdued in Florida — she is by nature too exuberant and noisy for that — but she was a very green Swede. Not any more.

In August, Alfredsson won the IBM Open in Stockholm and someone said: "What about the Solheim Cup now?" "We're going to beat those

suckers," Alfredsson said, with a ferocity that made the questioner take a step backwards. It was a fierceness, an intense desire, that was shared by every single European who had been at Lake Nona, by Mickey Walker, the captain, by the players and by their families and supporters.

The experience turned them into a real team, at ease with each other and appreciative of each other's qualities. "We're friends," Davies said.

Of the seven players who played at Lake Nona, only Alison Nicholas, facing an inspired Juli Inkster, did not win her singles. All ten of the Europeans were tyros, including Kiriina Douglas, who played only once and could not recover from a nervous start against Deb Richard.

She still covered miles in support and, as the team mimic, raised plenty of smiles. Gus Thomas, her husband and caddy, was there with a consoling hug but Douglas knew she was a winner, too. "I'm just glad my result didn't matter," she said.

There were European Tour members at Dalmahoy from Australia, Italy, Ireland and Sri Lanka as well as Britain. All were welcome in the European team room, which was open house for the playing of pool, drinking of coffee, reading of newspapers and sharing of good-natured banter.

Whatever made her players feel comfortable, Walker allowed. "My problem is hyping them down," she said before the match. Afterwards,

she did not care. She just beamed.

Alfredsson led the dancing in defeat in Florida and, on Sunday, led Nilsmark in a swirly Swedish version of the Olababal Ryder Cup samba. Nilsmark had a Swedish flag in her hair and spent the night wearing a cap with an embroidered badge reading: "Catrin, I won the Cup, Nilsmark."

Pam Wright, a quiet Scot, was nearly as sooty as Alfredsson as the side ran through its repertoire of football chants.

Catherine Lacoste, president of the Tour and once a competitor without peer, summed it all up as she stood enraptured, with a permanent smile nearly as wide and as satisfied as Walker's. "This is a moment of pure joy."

POOLS FORECAST

ENGLAND'S World Cup qualifying tie against Norway at Wembley next Wednesday means there are no Premier League games on Saturday. As a result, this week's coupon includes matches from four non-League divisions.

Although this fixture list may not whet your appetite, it would be foolish to ignore two likely-looking draws. At first glance, Enfield, lying second in the Diadora League premier division, should have the beating of Aylesbury United but the Buckinghamshire side's 6-1 win over Bromley on Saturday will have increased their chances of obtaining a

point. Barrow v Whiteley Bay in the HFS Loans League premier division, has even more obvious draw appeal as the teams are so evenly balanced.

Expect a high-scoring draw at Fratton Park where Portsmouth play Swindon Town, two of the most attractive sides in the first division.

In the second division, Preston North End's run of eight games without a draw should end at Blackpool. In the third division, take a chance on Cardiff City to take a point off Crewe Alexandra, thereby ending Crewe's 100 per cent home record.

Saturday October 10 (unless stated)

FIRST DIVISION		THIRD DIVISION	
1 Barnetley v Luton	10 Doncaster v Gillingham	10 Doncaster v Gillingham	10 Doncaster v Gillingham
2 Birmingham v Leicester	11 Hales v Colchester	11 Hales v Colchester	11 Hales v Colchester
3 Bristol v Charlton	12 Lincoln v Weymouth	12 Lincoln v Weymouth	12 Lincoln v Weymouth
4 Millwall v Cambridge	13 Scarborough v Northampton	13 Scarborough v Northampton	13 Scarborough v Northampton
5 Newcastle v Tranmere	14 Southport v York	14 Southport v York	14 Southport v York
6 Notts Co v Grimsby	15 Sharncliffe v Darlington	15 Sharncliffe v Darlington	15 Sharncliffe v Darlington
7 Peterborough v Brentford	16 Witton v Burton	16 Witton v Burton	16 Witton v Burton
8 Portsmouth v Swindon	17 Witton v Burton	17 Witton v Burton	17 Witton v Burton
9 Walsall v Bristol R	18 Witton v Burton	18 Witton v Burton	18 Witton v Burton

Not on coupon: Darby v Oxford (Sunday), Southend v Wolves, West Ham v Sunderland (Sunday)

SECOND DIVISION

1 Blackpool v Preston	10 Bolton v Hartlepool
2 Bolton v Hartlepool	11 Southport v Rotherham
3 Bolton v Hartlepool	12 Brighton v Wigan
4 Fulham v Huddersfield	13 Huddersfield v Reading
5 Huddersfield v Reading	14 Huddersfield v Reading
6 Huddersfield v Reading	15 Huddersfield v Reading
7 Huddersfield v Reading	16 Huddersfield v Reading
8 Huddersfield v Reading	17 Huddersfield v Reading
9 Huddersfield v Reading	18 Huddersfield v Reading

Not on coupon: Bradford City v Barnetley (Sun)

BASEBALL

Braves push for repeat win over Pittsburgh

By ROBERT KIRLEY

LAST year, the Minnesota Twins beat the Atlanta Braves in the World Series by the lone run on the last hit in the tenth inning of the final game. What a difference a year makes. The Twins will not retain their title because they failed to win their division.

The Braves are in business with a vengeance. For the second year in a row, they will play the Pittsburgh Pirates in the best-of-seven National League play-off, which begins in Atlanta tonight. The Braves beat the Pirates in seven games last year before their near miss in the World Series, which this year starts on October 17.

The Braves broke a 35-year-old club record by winning 98 games and are the team to beat. Strong in every department, they are led by the pitchers, Tom Glavine, Steve Avery, Charlie Liebrandt, Pete Smith and John Smoltz, who will start tonight.

Doug Drabek will start for Pittsburgh, who are in the play-offs for the third year in a row.

The Toronto Blue Jays clinched their third American League East title in four years and will host the Oakland A's tomorrow. The Boston Red Sox finished in last place for the first time in 60 years.

Oakland, who won their division for the fourth time in five years, split 12 games with the Jays this season.

Toronto withstood a furious late challenge by the Milwaukee Brewers. Jack Morris, who leads the Jays with 21 victories, was named most valuable player in the World Series with Minnesota last year.

The Baltimore Orioles were the most improved club in the major leagues, winning 22 more games than last season. The Los Angeles Dodgers fell the furthest, winning 30 fewer games and finishing last for the first time since 1905.

Marino hit on 21 of 33 passes for 282 yards and had touchdown strikes of 24 yards to Keith Jackson, recently acquired from Philadelphia, five yards to Tony Paige and nine yards to Bobby Humphrey. Jackson caught four passes for 64 yards.

Oliver returned his interceptions for a total of 170 yards, the second-highest in league history. John Offerdahl, of Miami, led a defence that held Thurman Thomas to 33 yards on 11 carries, and Bryan Cox added two sacks.

The Phoenix Cardinals recovered from an 18-point deficit in the fourth quarter to upset the Washington Redskins 27-24. Robert Massey returned two interceptions for scores and Chris Chandler threw a nine-yard touchdown

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Dolphins triumph as Oliver equals touchdown record

By ROBERT KIRLEY

LOUIS Oliver made three interceptions, returning one for a National Football League record-equaling 103-yard touchdown, and Dan Marino fired three scoring passes as the Miami Dolphins upset the Buffalo Bills 37-10 on Sunday.

The Dolphins emerged as the only unbeaten team in the American Football Conference. Buffalo, losers of the last two Super Bowls, faltered for the first time this season.

Marino hit on 21 of 33 passes for 282 yards and had touchdown strikes of 24 yards to Keith Jackson, recently acquired from Philadelphia, five yards to Tony Paige and nine yards to Bobby Humphrey. Jackson caught four passes for 64 yards.

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pass to Larry Centers in the final minute.

John Elway fired two touchdowns passes in the last two minutes, including a 12-yarder to Vance Johnson with 38 seconds to play, as the Denver Broncos rallied past the Kansas City Chiefs 20-19.

Denver trailed 19-6 after Nick Lowery's fourth field goal with five minutes left.

The Minnesota Vikings trailed by 20 points in the

fourth quarter but staged a remarkable comeback to defeat the Chicago Bears 21-20.

The Los Angeles Raiders beat the New York Giants 13-10 on Jeff Jaeger's 54-yard field goal with seven minutes to play. Steve Young scrambled for two fourth-quarter touchdowns and Mike Cofer kicked a 21-yard field goal with one second left as the San Francisco 49ers beat the Los Angeles Rams 27-24.

RESULTS: Atlanta Falcons 24, Green Bay Packers 10; Miami Dolphins 37, Buffalo Bills 10; New Orleans Saints 13, Detroit Lions 7; Minnesota Vikings 21, Chicago Bears 20; Indianapolis Colts 24, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 14; San Francisco 49ers 27, Los Angeles Rams 24; Denver Broncos 20, Kansas City Chiefs 19; Phoenix Cardinals 27, Washington Redskins 24; San Diego Chargers 17, Seattle Seahawks 6; Los Angeles Raiders 13, New York Giants 10; New York Jets 30, New England Patriots 21.

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ICE HOCKEY

Wasps make advance in shoot-out

CARDIFF Devils will play the holders, Nottingham Panthers, while Durham Wasps meet Whiteley Warriors in the semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup next month (Norman de Mesquita writes).

Durham's defeat of Sheffield Steelers in a penalty shoot-out was the most exciting of the quarter-finals. Durham won 7-6 at home on Saturday but Sheffield managed a 2-1 victory on Sunday. A scoreless period of overtime led to the shoot-out, which the Wasps won 3-0.

Peterborough Pirates were level on aggregate early in the second period of the second leg at Cardiff but then ran out of steam and Cardiff went on to score six unanswered goals. The Warriors made home advantage tell against Ayr Raiders, leading 7-0 after 25 minutes, while Basingstoke Beavers, who went into the weekend as the only unbeaten team, changed their forward formations and met their match in the Panthers.

In the second leg, Panthers led 5-0 by the fourteenth minute and forced Basingstoke to change their goalkeeper. They held on to win more comfortably than the 8-7 scoreline suggests.

Results, page 35

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TODAY'S FUTURE



Batty: much in demand

Uefa is ready to send Leeds to Barcelona

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

LEEDS United's proposal that the third leg of their European Cup tie against VfB Stuttgart should be staged at Elland Road has been rejected. It will be played abroad, not in Switzerland as had been expected, but probably in Barcelona at the end of the week.

Yet the saga, which is now enveloping three home countries preparing for World Cup qualifying ties next week, is not certain to be resolved as soon as the parties involved would wish. No one is emerg-

ing from the procrastination with credit.

Uefa, which initiated the confusion by delaying its decision until after the second-round European draws had been completed, yesterday rejected an appeal from Leslie Silver, the chairman of Leeds. He stated that on four counts his club deserves the right to hold the third game.

Firstly, since Stuttgart had breached regulations by choosing four foreigners in their squad for the second leg, Leeds should not be inconvenienced. Secondly, his club had effectively lost the opportunity to play for an

additional half-an-hour at home last week. As Uefa had ordered Stuttgart to lose the second leg 3-0, he contended, the score was effectively 3-3 and therefore extra-time was required.

Thirdly, the German champions would gain "a clear advantage" if the tie is staged on the Continent because their supporters can travel by road whereas Leeds travelling supporters, who outnumbered Stuttgart's by 10-1 in his estimation, would not be welcomed on the ferries.

Finally, he agreed that the gate receipts and the money earned from television cover-

age would be shared by the two clubs. The answer from Uefa, though, was brief and unsympathetic. "There is no possibility that the game will be at Elland Road", a spokesman said. "It must be on neutral ground."

So far Uefa has contacted Rotterdam, Basel, Bern, Dublin and Copenhagen but the response from each city was unfavourable. The Nou Camp, the home of Barcelona and the centrepiece of the Olympic Games in the summer, is now considered to be the most likely venue.

Wherever the match takes place, the projected timing

has displeased the managers of England, Scotland and Wales.

Graham Taylor may be without Batty and Dorogi when his squad assembles for the game against Norway at Wembley next Wednesday. Similarly, Andy Roxburgh could lose McAllister for the start of his preparations for the match against Portugal.

Terry Yorath, whose Welsh party has to travel to Cyprus, may also initially be missing. Speed, Uefa has indicated that confirmation of the date and location of the third game may not be announced until tomorrow or even Thursday.

Time, in which to arrange security and travel, will be then have almost expired.

Further difficulties will arise if the European Cup tie is postponed. It could not then be played until October 21, the date set aside for the first leg of the second round. Then Rangers, who have been drawn against either Leeds or Stuttgart, will have cause for complaint.

They are to play Aberdeen in the Skol Cup final on the following Sunday, October 25. Clearly, Rangers would prefer to avoid appearing in the European Cup either on the preceding Wednesday or

during the following midweek. All of these complications would have been avoided if Europe's governing body had acted promptly.

As soon as Stuttgart's transgression had been realised, Uefa should have ordered either the German champions to be disqualified, as Leeds still insist, or for the third game to be played in a suitable stadium tomorrow.

In dithering over the decision, and inviting both clubs to appeal, Uefa has made a difficult situation even more complicated.

Scotland squad, page 35

Arsenal manager proposes reforms

Graham calls for Premier League of only 16 clubs

By LOUISE TAYLOR

GEORGE Graham yesterday challenged Premier League chairmen to trim football's top division to 16 clubs, arrest a decline in quality and save themselves over £100,000 a year.

The Arsenal manager said on the BBC television programme, *Standing Room Only*, last night that ideally he would like only 16 Premier League clubs and just one cup competition. "Try it for a year or two and if it doesn't work out and the crowds have been very, very low, let's go back and let them have as many games as they want," he said.

Graham was reacting to an independent financial report commissioned by the BBC, forecasting the effect of a smaller Premier League on

club finances. It indicated that an 18-club league playing in only the FA Cup would be able to generate the same amount of income, playing ten fewer matches a season.

The shortfall in gate receipts would be compensated by a bigger share of television rights and commercial opportunities.

The forecast showed that the average club would also save around £75,000 a year on policing, travel and physiotherapy costs. If there were only 16 clubs in the league, that saving would exceed £100,000.

Graham yesterday told *The Times*: "The majority of managers would welcome a Premier League slimmer down to at least 16 clubs — and I

would prefer 16 — because we need a chance to work on the basics with players."

This Saturday is devoid of Premier League fixtures to allow the England squad to prepare for next week's World Cup qualifying match against Norway, but Sheffield Wednesday are using the spare weekend to fly to South Africa for an exhibition match.

Graham countered criticisms that playing ten or so fewer domestic games a season would simply prompt more Premier League clubs to play lucrative friendlies with overseas clubs. "The Football Association has the power to veto any overseas friendly," he said. "It should introduce a ruling that teams could only play two such prestige games a season."

Howard Wilkinson, the manager of Leeds United and president of the Managers' Association, had a slightly different perspective. "Had we not still been involved with Stuttgart in the European Cup I would have liked to have accepted an invitation from Real Madrid to play them in Spain at the weekend," he said. "I think my players could have learnt a lot from the different techniques of Real's quality players."

Wilkinson was impressed by the BBC financial forecast. "The managers need to agree to push a smaller Premier League through," he said. "Playing fewer games imposes less physical strain on people. Having smaller squads would save money. I also think that the supporters would respond to a better product, and that would be reflected in the numbers that watched a game and the prices they would be prepared to pay."

Lennie Lawrence, the Middlesbrough manager, disagreed with Wilkinson on the merits of meeting foreign opposition. "I would not play those sort of matches for all the tea in China," he said. "I have told my players to do absolutely nothing on Saturday. Players are tired from travelling in midweek, and carrying injuries. They need to rest."



Coming back: Bruno training near Ashby de la Zouch yesterday for his bout against Coetzer

Bruno lined up for title attempt

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

IF FRANK Bruno beats Pierre Coetzer, of South Africa, in 11 days' time at Wembley Arena, he could get a world title challenge before Lennox Lewis, according to Micky Duff, Bruno's promoter. Duff has offered Evander Holyfield £5 million to defend against Bruno in London in April or May.

Duff said yesterday at Springs Hydro, outside Ashby de la Zouch, where Bruno has been training for six months: "I've made an offer of £5 million to Holyfield to come to London in the spring. Frank will be a very viable challenge both financially and as an attraction."

Duff plans to put the bout on at Wembley Stadium. It

will be an £8 million promotion. "I've had discussions with Shelley Finkel and Dan Duva [Holyfield's joint managers] and they have told me they would consider Bruno if he beats a credible opponent. Coetzer is a credible opponent. He was good enough for Riddick Bowe who fights Holyfield in November."

Bruno — was delighted. "Being with Micky Duff, it does not surprise me that I got a world title so soon. I'm ready for it. I've been sparring big guys here. But I don't want to talk about it. I've got one bridge to cross at a time."

According to Duff the winner of the bout between Holyfield and Bowe would have six months in which to

make voluntary defences. Bruno would be considered by them to be an easier touch than Lewis or Riddick.

However, Lewis, who is training in the United States, will fiercely contest any attempt by Duff to challenge for the world title first.

Duff's offer to Bruno was swiftly dismissed as "a cheap publicity stunt" by Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager. "I have got a signed contract that Holyfield or Bowe will fight Lewis or Riddick before April 1993. It is a legal document which I have had since July," Maloney said.

Duff is looking for cheap publicity to sell tickets for his show. Bruno against Coetzer is not a bad fight but the real

fight takes place on October 31. That is the official world title eliminator.

Bruno sparred eight rounds at Springs Hydro yesterday with two American heavyweights, Dave "Big Foot" Johnson, weighing 20st 3lb, and Anthony Wade, 18st 3lb. Bruno, around 17 stone, looked in good shape, even though he has had only three rounds of ring boxing since his comeback 11 months ago.

Johnson thought Bruno was much improved. He said: "Frank is stronger and more versatile. He should not have too much trouble with Coetzer because I didn't and Frank is better than me. He should stop Coetzer between the fifth and the seventh."

Wales are to play England again

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE rebirth last year of the Welsh national team has succeeded in resurrecting the defunct England side. The two will resume an 84-year rivalry at the Vetch Field, Swansea, on November 27.

When they last met in October 1984 — England's final match before entering another period of hibernation — the crowd of only 2,000 at Ebbw Vale and the 28-8 defeat of Wales spelt the apparent end of the fixture, as well as both sides. Priority was rightly given to the Great Britain set-up.

The haemorrhage, until recently, from rugby union, brought about the Welsh revival, which was marked by comprehensive dismissals of France and Papua New Guinea last season.

Given the dearth of international competition, the resumption of the fixture with England is a welcome addition.

With little sign of rugby league establishing itself in Wales, however, the game is unlikely to have much of a future beyond the playing careers of the existing Welsh converts to the game.

Malcolm Kelly, who will coach England, faces the more pressing problem of injuries and the possible suspension of Wigan's loose forward, Phil Clarke, which will restrict his options when selecting a 19-man squad next week for Great Britain's World Cup final against Australia on October 24.

If Clarke is banned for more than two matches at Thursday's disciplinary committee, having been sent off for a high tackle in Sunday's game at Leigh, he will miss the match at Wembley. Sheffield Eagles' Daryl Powell and the Castleford full back, Graham Steadman, who has knee and ankle injuries, are both rated as doubtful.

Australia's squad of 22 reported no injury problems on arrival at their base in Leeds yesterday. They begin their preparations today for the first of three warm-up games against Huddersfield on Friday.

The Rugby League Supporters' Association yesterday welcomed an end to what it described as discrimination, with the lifting of the ban by the South African Rugby Union on players wishing to try their hand at rugby league.

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Romanian to coach British gymnasts

By PETER AYKROYD

ADRIAN Stan, the Romanian national gymnastics coach, was named yesterday as coach to the British women's squad. The appointment raises hopes that Britain will demonstrate a marked improvement from their seventeenth place in the international rankings.

Stan, 38, will work for the British Amateur Gymnastics Association (BAGA) at Lilleshall, a national sports centre on a three-year contract from November 1. He takes over from Colin Still, who resigned this year to become a freelance coaching consultant.

Paul Garber, chairman of the BAGA's women's technical committee, said yesterday: "Adrian Stan comes to us from the powerhouse of Romanian gymnastics at the top of the sport. We are confident

that he can take us towards elite status before very long."

Stan was formerly head coach and a technical director at the sports high school, Deva, which has provided the world with some of its best women performers. The school, which has 380 gymnasts, is home to the Romanian national team.

In the 1980s, Stan's expertise contributed to Romania's high standing at three world championships and two Olympic Games, at all of which they were placed in the first three. He has helped to coach several outstanding successes, such as Ecaterina Szabo, the runner-up at the 1984 Olympics, Aurelia Dobrea, 1977 world champion, and Daniela Silivas, overall silver medal winner at the 1988 Olympics.

England A to be kept on the move

THE England A team, captained by Martyn Moxon, will play five four-day games on a wide-ranging tour of Australia this winter. The party, managed by the Worcestershire secretary, Mike Vockins, with Norman Gifford, of Sussex, in charge of the cricketing side, will be away for eight weeks and will play teams representing every Sheffield Shield side except Victoria.

The tour party, which includes only three full England caps in Moxon, wicketkeeper Jack Russell, the vice-captain, and David Capel, will spend a week in Tasmania.

ITINERARY: Jan 26: Leave London, Jan 31: New South Wales XI, Borolet, Feb 2-4: Australian Capital Territory, Canberra, Feb 7: Tasmania, Launceston, Feb 8-10: Queensland, Brisbane, Feb 13-15: Australia XI, Adelaide, Feb 16-19: New South Wales, Sydney, Feb 20-22: Queensland, Cairns, Feb 25-Mar 1: South Australia, Adelaide, Mar 4-7: New South Wales, Sydney, Mar 10: Northern Territory XI, Alice Springs, Mar 12: Western Australia XI, Perth, Mar 14-17: Western Australia XI, Perth.

Jeffes welcomes the company

By BARRY PICKTHALL

VIVIEN Cherry and her crew on Coopers & Lybrand continued to head the British Steel Challenge yesterday after wrestling the lead in this round-the-world race from the Paul Jeffes-skipped Interspray, early on Sunday.

The first Jeffes knew of the challenge was an unknown light spotted shortly after midnight as the leaders closed on Madeira. It turned out to be the masthead light of Coopers & Lybrand, and at 3am, Cherry called up over the radio: "I think it's time to take off your yellow jersey. By my calculations we are now ahead."

Remarkably, the Coopers crew had clawed back more than 40 miles in the space of a day, making most of the 25 knot northwesterly winds experienced off the Moroccan coast, to become the fifth yacht to lead the fleet since the race started ten days ago.

Jeffes was unperturbed by his change of fortunes. "It's nice to have company out here, but it is a question of playing the course of the weather, and right now we are playing the weather. I'm in the business of heating her over the next 5,000 miles not the next five minutes."

By yesterday afternoon, Cherry had changed course to avoid sailing through the lee of the Canary Islands but her yacht still held a slender four-mile lead over Jeffes and his crew.

Further back in the fleet, the crew on Heath Assured have claimed a record run of 245.1 miles noon-to-noon, between October 3 and 4, but their position in the ten-strong fleet remains a lowly eighth, 88 miles further from Rio than Coopers & Lybrand.

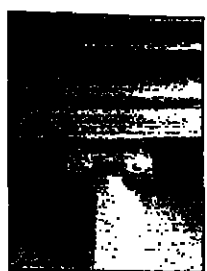
Adrian Rayson, the Heath crewman, reported yesterday: "We are bowling along at 10

knots, with the wind up the chuff and a hint of a smile about our skipper's face. Crew morale has varied and some of us were sick in the Bay of Biscay. In these darkest moments one or two allowed themselves to think this is a terrible mistake but no doubt the emotional troughs are a rehearsal for the mighty Southern Ocean to come."

"It has started to sink in that 67h is a very small environment in which to spend several weeks with 13 others. Arthur Haynes spoke of walking to the pub for a pint before dinner this evening and it seemed a very good idea."

LEADING POSITIONS at 1400 GMT yesterday with miles to Rio de Janeiro: 1. Coopers & Lybrand (V Cherry), 3,604.2; Interspray (P Jeffes), 3,618.2; British Steel (J Russell), 3,641.4; Heath Assured (A Rayson), 3,688.5; Group A (Squadron 14 O'Rourke), 3,693.7; Group B (Squadron 14 O'Rourke), 3,693.7; Heath Assured (A Rayson), 3,694.9; Fleet of 10 (Squadron 14 O'Rourke), 3,695.10; Commercial Union (W Sutherland), 3,710.

Results compiled by BT



MODERN TIMES p4

Putting the
Prince of
Wales's views
into practice



LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY OCTOBER 6 1992

PARENTS p5

Why Roseanne
Barr turned
to family
therapy



Sing a song of Europe

Petula Clark
begins her first
tour of Britain
for ten years

If John Major really wants to get the Maastricht treaty through the House of Commons, he could do worse than have it set to music and recorded by Petula Clark. But, surprisingly, that may be an offer the archetypal English Europhile could easily refuse.

Pet Clark, who starts her first British tour for ten years tomorrow, conquered Europe more than 30 years ago. At the time, anything that went on across the English Channel was regarded with a mixture of suspicion and unadulterated distaste. A few souls took holidays in France and came back with prejudice-reinforcing tales, supported by a nasty smell of garlic in their clothes.

In the early 1960s they delivered another tale, of a young singer whose name was spoken with awe by the French. She appeared to be called Petououla Cla-ark and she bore a remarkable resemblance to a English child film star. Could these two by any chance be related?

One and the same. The girl from Epsom in Surrey who had made a string of films for Rank, starting with *A Medal for the General* when she was



Petula Clark the original European

12 years old, had turned up in France. Whereas in England she was described as "pretty" in France she had become something else. "Beautiful" and even "sensual". Pet Clark, having longed to "get out of ankle socks and become mysterious, like Ingrid Bergman", had become... a superstar.

In London this week preparing for the tour, she swears love took her to France, not some Edward Heathian desire to blaze a trail. There was this man, Claud Wolff. She fell in love and he took her home to France, simple as that.

The move to Paris got Pet Clark out from under the umbrella of Rank and into the ambit of Wolff, a former record producer who produced sophisticated hits for an increasingly sophisticated lady. *Downtown* and *I Know A Place* established her as a singing star in Britain, a pop queen over the water.

She now lives with Wolff, whom she married in 1961, in Geneva. They have two daughters and a son, all three fluent in French, English and Spanish. "We are Europeans," she says, "though the difference between the nations excite me and talk of a single state with a single currency is, well, a little frightening."

So Maastricht: the record? Perhaps not. For now there is the 19-verme tour, ending in Stockholm on November 8, a week before her 58th birthday. These are not glamorous locations for a megastar who sells out halls all over Europe and who packs 'em in at the Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas. But business is business.

She agreed to another British tour on condition that there would be plenty of new material, but the old hits will be in there too. The clipped, slightly odd voice, that mark of the bilingual, remains unmistakable, singing and talking. And Pet Clark remains awfully nice, down to earth, rather well. British. So vive la difference? Mais oui. What a relief.

P. B.

Stephen Bayley
believes Britain is
paying the price
for its absurd
preoccupation with
the product rather
than the process

Never has a word assumed and then lost so much meaning as "design" did in the last decade. But while casual readers of highbrow newspapers have acquired an impression that the celebration of "design" was an invention of the 1980s, along with Porsche and Rolex, in fact, like the car and the watch, the history of design promotion starts a lot earlier.

Looking back, it is clear that the promotion of "design" has its origins in the achievement of one man, Paul (later Lord) Reilly, who died in October 1990. Although it did not seem so at the time, with his death a whole set of fragile beliefs became vulnerable: rarely have the circumstances of one man's life complemented so well the spirit of the age. As director of the Design Council during its most energetic and influential years from 1959 to 1977, Reilly seized the last historical moment when it was possible to believe — no matter how vaguely — that the British economy could be revived by the fresh blood of "design" being transfused into the decrepit body of its manufacturing industry. A well-travelled Fabian aesthete with a natty dress sense and a sure way with politicians and diplomats, Reilly successfully talked-up "design" to a subject taken seriously.

Reilly's unique achievement was to give Britain, alone among the Group of Seven countries, a quango devoted to design. That this was a personal vision is amply suggested by the state of confused self-paranoia in which the Design Council has found itself since his retirement in 1977. The council was charged with an ancient Board of Trade brief to encourage manufacturing arts by exposing industry and the public to the aesthetic preferences of an educated élite (most often in the shape of genteel, bland Scandinavian modernism). By the later 1980s, the jingoistic remit was straining under the heavy realities of global manufacturing. A bicycle bearing a British brand-name had to be removed from display when an alert member of the public noticed that the thing was actually made in the Far East. Old ideas about "design" could not survive the age of the brand and the logo.

Latterly, the Design Centre had become a sort of desperate Made-in-Britain Centre. When the current Ford Fiesta was launched the Design Council had one on display in its Haymarket exhibition space, pronouncing it to be a splendid example of British "design". But the Fiesta is assembled in Valencia, Spain, from components made in Basildon, Belfast, Bridgend, Dagenham, Enfield, Halewood, Leamington, Treforest, Berlin, Cologne, Saarlouis, Wilfrath, Genk and Bordeaux. Its interior was designed largely in Britain by a multinational team of designers led by a Canadian. Its body was

designed in Germany. The company which manufactures it is American. The Ford Fiesta has about as much claim to be British as Bob Hope. But in 1989 it was necessary to make nationalistic claims about design.

Inadvertently, by presenting design as a self-dependent entity, the Design Council suggested that it was a transferable substance, inherent in some objects but not in others. Of course, the truth of the matter is that anything which has been made has been designed: whether it works well is a matter of engineering; whether it makes a profit is a matter of strict financial controls. Whether it sells is anybody's guess, but the Design Council always refused to consider products in a commercial context.

Reilly's elegant Fabianism almost required the council to define quality as something at odds with commercial success. As a result, Design Council awards became notorious as a sinister kiss-of-death. The approach to "design" achieved something paradoxically opposite to what Reilly and his followers intended. Instead of educating a public into an awareness that everything was designed, so therefore everything might as well be designed to please, they managed to suggest that only certain things were designed and that these were exclusive, precious, rare. The effect was to present design as a product, a Taiwanese bicycle, for instance, rather than a process. Reilly's successor at the Design

Council supervised an award for the Montego on account of its not-too-disagreeable appearance, failing entirely to understand that one reason for the Montego's poor reliability record and lack of refinement was that the production engineering was complex and inefficient. Still, it had body-colour door handles and Euro-normal details, so it won an award from the Made-in-Britain centre.

The confusion about process and product came about for the best of reasons. When the Design Centre opened in 1956, Britain still had vertically and horizontally integrated industries. This is to say that not only did native manufacturers make an example of everything (from cars to candles, via radios and televisions), but they made lots of different types of them: there was variety and competition. Schooled on the moral certainties of Fabianism and a strong personal preference for the clean, cool forms of the Swedish "house beautiful" movement, it was mischievously rewarding to criticise manufacturers for not conforming to the aesthetics of an educated élite in a world still full of cynical junk. "good form" offered profound relief.

It is no accident that the two cultures and economies where design is equated with products rather than process are Britain and the United States, where manufacturing is not so much depressed as

dead and buried. The tragic absurdity which follows so many years of "design promotion" is that Britain has a trillion designers and nobody to make anything, a phenomenon which reached its peak in the 1980s when people were disinclined to make anything other than money. In this economic climate, "design" seemed an attractive short cut to efficiency. This was mistaken. Design is just a word which describes the practical and aesthetic aspects of making things.

In the past, economic success depended on exactly this: making things. But more recently economic advantage has come from the mastery of technological processes whose importance now overwhelms product. Returns on new products used to be higher than returns on new processes, since they gave a manufacturer a monopoly status. One of the reasons why Japanese manufacturers did not invest in new product design during the 1960s was that at the time it seemed American manufacturers had such an advantage that competitive confrontation was impossible. There was no alternative but to avoid the investment costs of new product development and invest instead in process technology.

All those art colleges still churning out "product design" students have not twigged this. By 1992, their investment allowed the Japanese to produce new product at bewildering rates. Hitachi takes about 90 seconds to manufacture a complete VCR and in the electron-

ics sector, product life cycles, the crucial measure of efficiency, are down to about 24 weeks. This calculus of efficiency actually inspires design, but the equation does not work the other way around.

What nobody realised at the time was that the those investing in process would soon acquire the means to take away products from their inventors: there is no point in developing new products when the new process technologies allow any imitator — in a process known as "reverse engineering" — to reproduce it in short order. The ability to make things efficiently is the modern alchemy. People used to say "form follows function". The new definitive trope is "process precedes product". The people who own the processes own us.

To confuse process and product, to promote design as an end in it-

self, is destructive, rather as John Updike once remarked that celebrity is a mask that eats the face. Inescapably, the conclusion comes swimming into view that this confusion is a symptom of a fundamental lack of integrity in our culture.

The dire condition of the Design Council is illustrated by a remark recently made to an RIBA jury by a proud client in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Quite without irony, the client answered a question about a certain detail by saying: "I don't know whether it's functional or whether it's been designed." Design is about intelligence made visible: when product and process become separated, stupidity is manifest. The meaning of "design" can be salvaged, but it is five minutes to midnight. Who is going to do it?

Buoyancy aids may well be required

MID LIFE: Peter Barnard is afraid that he is beginning to lose his nerve

Journalism is good at defining and re-defining the people who serve it. Years ago, precisely 19 days after I had first set foot in the Middle East, a learned magazine carried an article by me on Saudi Arabia, describing me in italic type as "a Middle East specialist". Get into journalism! Be a Middle East specialist in 19 days!

Now, I am middle-aged, because the features editor says so. Rightly, undeniably, so, it must be added, and the proof lies in the fact that I am writing this at this time, when I should be at a wedding. I am not at the wedding because if I was, I would be afraid. I would be feeling guilty. Afraid that I was leaving the work too late, guilty that I was standing in a registry office thinking about the work. When journalism is not defining me, fear and guilt are. They are the defining emotions of middle age.

I never learned to swim because I hate being in the water, though I love being on it, in boats. Twenty years ago I never thought about drowning, would leap like a salmon from shore to boat, skiddaddle along heaving decks in high winds for all the world like Harrison Ford. A life-jacket? Never owned one. Once I nearly drowned off the Isle of Wight, dropped off a deck into 60 feet of water, but the first time I bobbed up they hauled me aboard. Laugh? We nearly died.

A couple of nights ago on the

peaceful River Avon I was coming through a lock, alone. In the dark, when my foot slipped on the shore. There was no danger, but I had to sit down for a couple of minutes because handling ropes when your hands are shaking is not recommended. What might have been entered my subconscious on the River Avon as it never had off the Solent.

Then there is other people's fear, or the absence of it. Recently I had dinner with a woman colleague, someone I know only slightly, and my hotel seemed the most convenient location. We went there and I needed something from my room. She came up with me rather than hang about in a crowded lobby and on the way down it struck me that she felt as safe alone with me in a hotel room as she would have done in the lobby. She felt no fear. I felt flattered, and unaccountably depressed. I was pleased that she trusted me, slightly sad that I had become trustworthy. Not that I wish to be regarded as a middle-

aged wolf, just well, you know. My own gender defines me too. Time was, anyone looking for an argument could have one. A fight? There were not many fights, but the English male is a curious creature, one for whom the rhetorical question "Are you trying to be funny?" announces a punch-up as surely as the bell at the start of round one.

Now I avoid it, walk away. I tell myself that it is a dignified, civilised response and indeed there are few sights more depressing than grown men hitting each other. But my response is also a recognition that most of those who are looking for a fight are younger, fitter, faster. By walking away I announce the certain outcome of the fight, as much as my distaste for the activity itself. I am afraid of losing.

Fear and guilt. And paranoia. A friend of about my age went to see a senior executive of the company he works for the other day. My friend was worried about his position because of a recent merger. "Don't

worry," the senior executive said, "I am on your side."

My friend walked back to his office, alarm growing with every step. Side? he thought. So there's a side. Who is on the other side? How many people are on my side? Will my side win? The chairman said hello to me in the lift this morning. "I wonder what he meant by that?"

There is another old saw, about the policemen getting younger. This is no joke, they are. Policemen are authority figures and men (more than women) learn from their fathers that authority is age. My father still has authority over me, though he does not exercise it, in part because I have reached the age that he was at when I was young. Then, I regarded him as the ultimate authority, giving him the right to be obeyed and me the right to rebel.

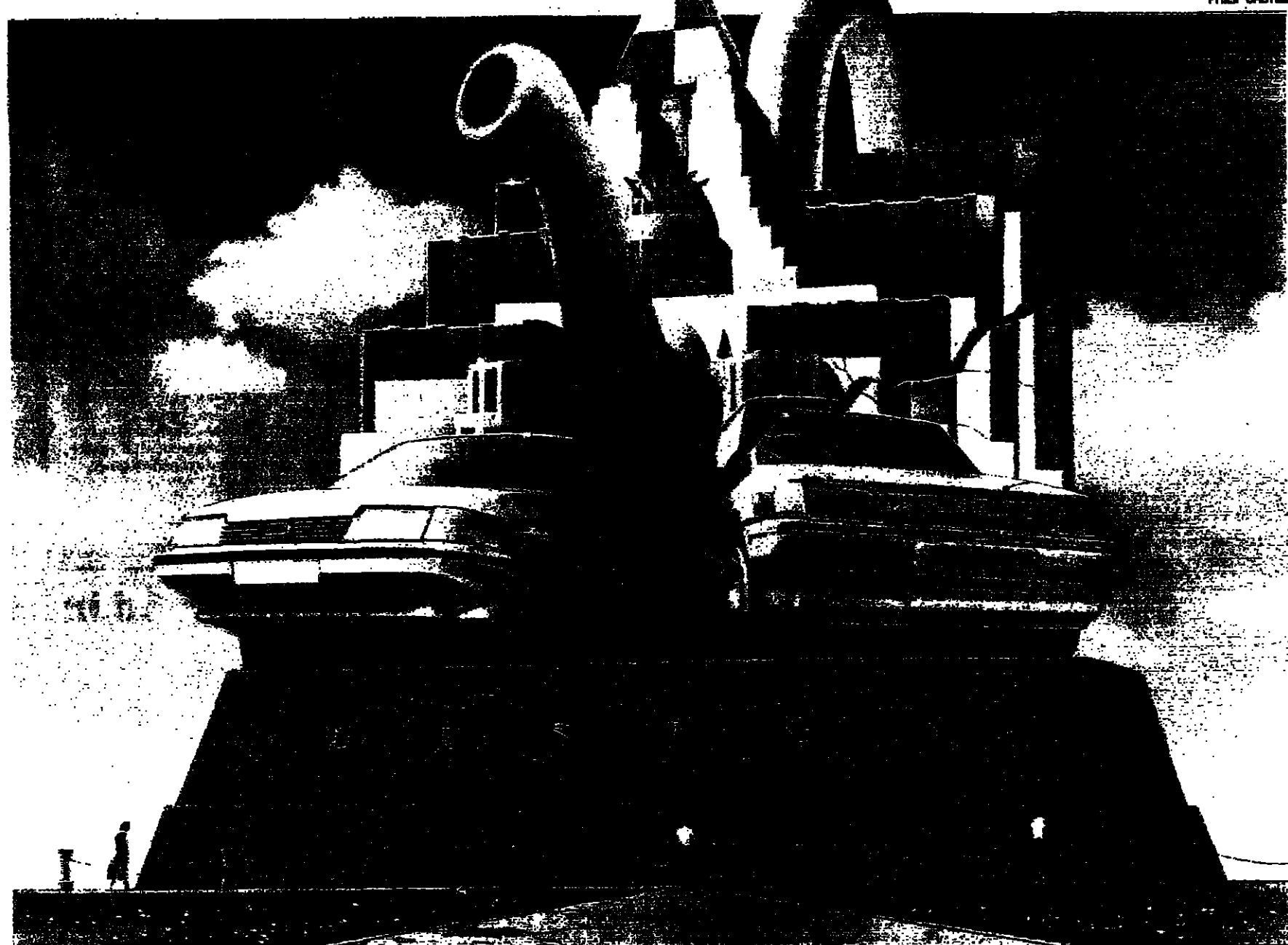
Now I have daughters in their early twenties, self-sufficient, out of my control. But I have a certain authority over them. They will say: "If you really want me to, I will." They know without knowing that if policemen of their age can order me about, the least they can do is allow me the illusion of authority over someone of their age.

I could have gone to the wedding, there was time after all. But at least this way I have gained a couple of hours. I think I shall go out and buy a life-jacket.



Lingering death by design

PHILIP CASTLE



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EXPIRES 31/10/92

Too much safety in these numbers

Geoff Brown looks at Barry Norman's choice of 100 best films of the century and begs to differ from the BBC pundit, finding the selection on the tame side

Eight "Desert Island" discs: ten commandments; your 100 best tunes something in human nature demands lists and hierarchies. So why not "Barry Norman's 100 Best Films of the Century"? There they lie, in the current issue of *Radio Times*: an alphabetical list of titles — copyright Barry Norman 1992 — for the instruction and amusement of us all. "I look forward with much confidence," he writes, "to having my choice ridiculed and derided because, when it comes to movies, everyone is a critic and everyone is an expert." By the end of October, there will also be a book, with a picture of Norman alone in a viewing room, sans popcorn, sans notebook, hands pensively clasped under his chin.

Ridicule and derision is not my intent, but at stake here is a century's worth of the most dynamic, if not the most well-husbanded, of all modern art forms. So let us explore, fearlessly. Like most compilers of movie lists, Norman starts from the assumption that all the best films are feature-length. Many indeed are, though the assumption does knock out of the running 90 years of inventive work in animation, comedy shorts, documentary and agit-prop. So goodbye Mickey Mouse, Humphrey Jennings, Tex Avery's cartoon *King-Size Canary*, and the inebriated Laurel and Hardy.

Of the 100 features, 61 are American. They stretch from *The Adventures of Robin Hood* to *The Wizard of Oz*, from D.W. Griffith's 1913 epic *The Birth of a Nation* (the list's oldest title) to *Hannah and Her Sisters* (the latest recruit). An impressive 19 are British (*The Third Man* and such; three Powell and Pressburger; *Genevieve*, *Gregory's Girl*), though the tally also includes international ventures such as *The African Queen* and *Lawrence of Arabia*.

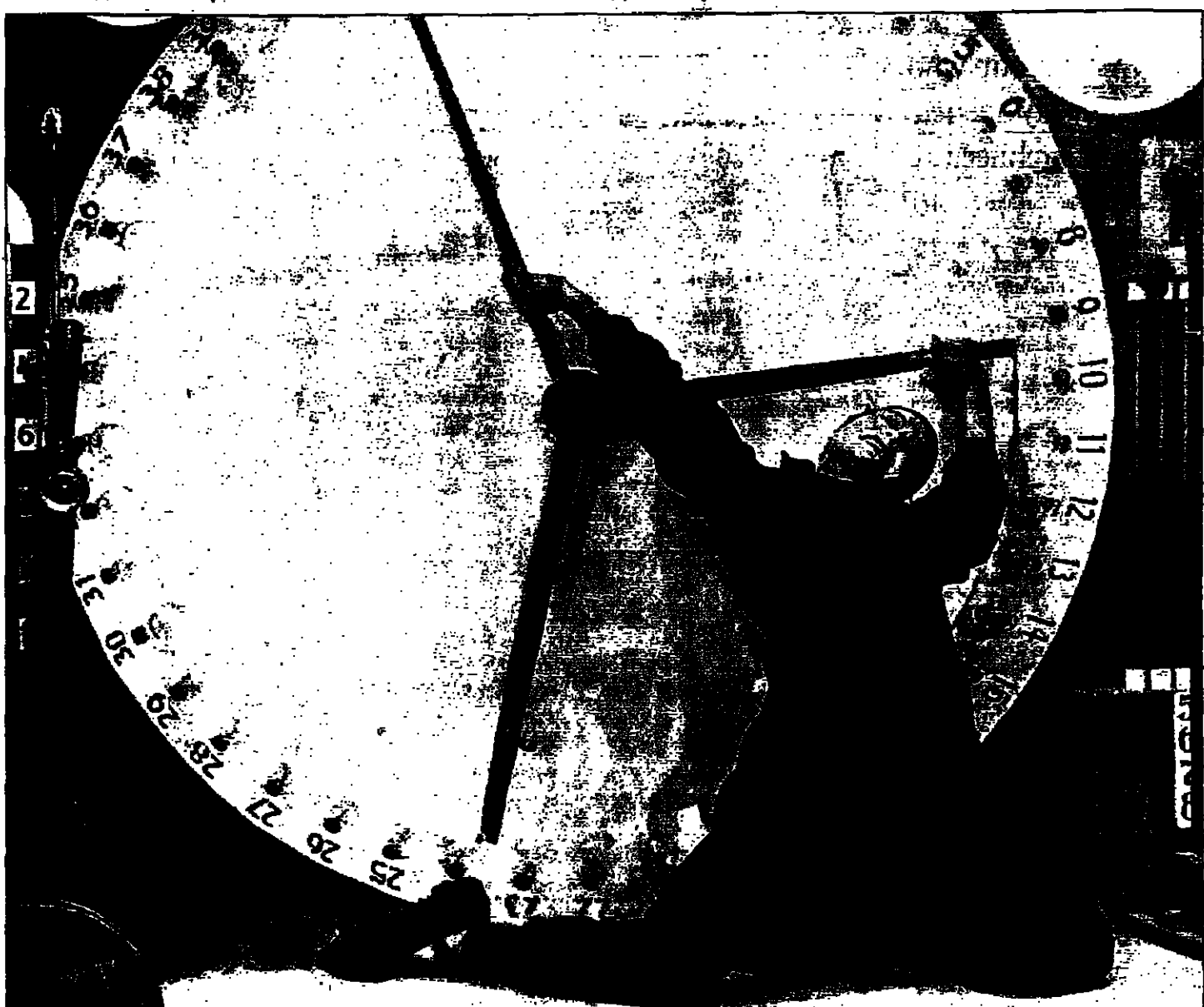
Nine are French, from *Napoleon* to *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie*, by way of *La Grande Illusion*, *Les Enfants du paradis* and *A Bout de souffle*. Four are Italian; three are Japanese (Kurosawa directed them all). Two

are Swedish, one is Russian, one is Indian: anyone with a nodding acquaintance with world cinema should be able to guess these particular titles. Just four of the century's best films are silent. And none of the 100 are German: so goodbye the dazzling *Metropolis* and other Fritz Lang fantasies. Goodbye Murnau's *The Last Laugh*, or that Expressionist treasure trove, *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*. Along with *Ozu*, Mizoguchi, Dreyer and other world masters, they have been elbowed out by films offering easier pleasures, such as *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*.

But let us be fair. Barry Norman's perspective has never been that of a film connoisseur, a haunter of cinémathèques who chases after the rare and choice. Twenty-one years of *Film 92* and its predecessors later, he remains essentially what he was at the outset: a Fleet Street journalist who through diligence and aggressive marketing has become recognised as British television's Mr Film. He reflects mainstream popular taste, within that sphere he is honest and reasonably sound.

There will be little argument about many of his Hollywood choices, from comedy (*The General*, *Duck Soup*) to the Western (*The Searchers*, *Stagecoach*) and the musical (*Top Hat*, *Singin' in the Rain*). But Norman still leaves space for quibbling. Why bother, for instance, with *Pat and Mike*, the least likeable of all Tracy-Hepburn comedies? And I can only pity someone who would include among his top musicals *Cabaret* — a fine stage show, perhaps, but a hard film to enjoy — and ignore the heavenly Rodgers and Hart frolic *Love Me Tonight*.

Yet, orthodox or not, Norman's list does open up a writhing can of worms. Should we regard the list, and all such lists, as just a game, or as a quasi-serious attempt to define excellence? If the latter, we tread on dangerous ground. Any objective assessment of a work of art is a hideously difficult and artificial exercise: unless you are a robot, personal feelings and national prej-



Dazzling fantasy, but not included: a scene from Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*, widely regarded as a classic, but not on Barry Norman's list

udices keep intruding. It is also cruel to weigh one art work against the other for a place in some hallowed top ten or hundred: we need them all, and a silly, imperfect film can often touch the heart far more than some peerless Eisenstein classic.

If the list is indeed a game, then Norman plays the game badly. A 100 best list, after all, provides a golden opportunity to let subjective fancies fly, to champion the neglected, tickle readers' curiosity and lead them away from the straight and narrow. When Norman follows *The Searchers* with *Seven Samurai*, *The Seventh Seal*, *Shane* and *Singin' in the Rain*, it is hard to stop yawning, though I appreciate he cannot be blamed for the quirks of alphabetical order.

Guided solely by the pleasure principle, my own top hundred list would have to jettison some of Norman's old faithfuls — the *Bicycle*

Thieves and Shanes — for more disreputable films: Joan Crawford going mad in *Humoresque*; Stanley Baker going likewise in *Hell Drivers*; Kamal Amrohi's *Pakeezah*, the pottiest Indian extravaganza on earth. They may not be perfect art, but I need these films around me.

The matter of the century's best films is further complicated by cinema's wide appeal. Film is both an art form and a commercial business; its audience ranges from academics and archivists who rarely see daylight to droves of youngsters out on the town. An archivist's list might never leave the silent era at all; but if a list was based on box-office criteria, the best films would be blockbusters such as *Star Wars*, *Jaws* and *E.T.* (Norman includes the last-named, but neither of the first two). It is probably asking too much

of any list to cover both worlds.

The British Film Institute certainly failed when it produced a list, several years ago, of 360 key films, to be played in repertory at the Museum of the Moving Image in brand-new prints. The BFI managed to include some Chinese delicacies and *The Strawberry Blonde*, a pleasing trifle with Cagney and Rita Hayworth, but could not rustle up *Easy Rider*, any sample of De Mille's silent work, or even *Gone With the Wind*.

Film history, in any case, resists being set in concrete. It is a living thing, constantly under evaluation as lost works are discovered and neglected directors reassessed. An ossified line-up of classic titles, which Norman's list in part represents, leaves no room for fresh discoveries, and perpetuates the status of films whose charms may not be quite what we thought they

were, like René Clément's *Jour Interdit* or Fellini's *Nights of Cabiria*.

As cinema approaches its centenary in 1995, we need more than ever to stimulate awareness of the art form's breadth, not canonise the tried and true — least of all when 60 per cent of the canon is mainstream American. Hollywood is already swamping the world with Mc-Burger movies that leave little room for local product; if we need any 100 best list to guide us, we need one that throws the door open to excellence in all spheres, all places, from Guru Dutt's work in Indian popular cinema to the American-Whitney Brothers' mesmerising computer animation.

There is a planet's worth of amazing celluloid out there to discover: but you will never find it if you never stray from *The Best Years of Our Lives* and *High Noon*.

ARTS BRIEF

Fresh nostalgia

THERE is some corner of a foreign field that is forever England. Or at least, for the next fortnight. An illustrious team of actors is at present assembled in Normandy to film Roy Clarke's *A Foreign Field* for the BBC. Sir Alec Guinness, Lauren Bacall, Leo McKern, Jeanne Moreau and Geraldine Chaplin are among those taking part in this story of second world war veterans — English, French and American — meeting up in present-day France. It is not the first time that the director, Charles Sturridge, has returned to *tempo perdu*: he was responsible for the televising of *Brideshead Revisited* and the films of *A Handful of Dust* and *Where Angels Fear to Tread*.

Another slice

SIMON GRAY's 1987 West End play, *Melon*, is being reborn off-Broadway this week as *The Holy Terror*. Gray has been tinkering with the play since its London debut, and insists the original is virtually unrecognisable in the new production, which opens on Thursday. New York-based British actor Daniel Gerroll inherits the role of the cuckooed publisher originated in the West End by Alan Bates.

Happy returns

AMERICAN Ballet Theatre has appointed a new artistic director and a new executive director, ending months of uncertainty over the future leadership of the financially beleaguered company. Former ABT dancer Kevin McKenzie is returning to take over as artistic director while Gary Dunning, a former general manager, returns as executive director. ABT is currently rehearsing in New York for its Japanese tour later this month.

Last chance...

ON HER latest album, *Ingénue*, k.d. lang has shifted emphasis away from the guitar twang and onto the torch songs. Now accompanied by a superb nine-piece band, the Canadian singer remains the most impressive of the new wave of country music mavericks. Expect many humorous twists and energetic turns in a wonderfully paced and executed show, when she finishes her current British tour tonight at the Albert Hall (071-589 8212).

JAZZ REVIEW: LONDON

Feeling at home in Jamaica, W1

Bob Marley songs in a jazz club? Purists are advised to steer clear of Frith Street during the Soho Ronnie Scott's Club residency of the pianist, Monty Alexander. Anybody, on the other hand, who is faintly curious as to how a world-class improviser can re-shape popular melodies without a hint of condescension or academic earnestness would find a visit more than worthwhile.

Born in Jamaica, Alexander settled in the United States during his teens. In the years since then it has not always been easy to discern his West Indian roots. His playing has often borne traces of all man-

ner of illustrious names — he must be tired of hearing critics mention Errol Garner, Oscar Peterson and the rest — yet his own personality has seemed rather more elusive. There was no such problem

at Ronnie Scott's. Who knows, perhaps as he enters middle age Alexander feels more at ease with his musical heritage. Whatever the reason, he was in a remarkably relaxed and uninhibited mood, assisted by two propulsive sidemen in the shape of drummer Duffy Jackson and the bass player Ira Coleman. Some of the songs were given an extra ounce of backbeat by the addition of a second drummer, Winston Clifford.

I imagine that, in the wrong hands, the performance of the Marley songs could have degenerated into anodyne, tourist-class fare. Alexander, however, treats his material with both affection and diligent musicianship. "Three Little Birds" was given the jaunty,



Monty Alexander: world-class improviser on piano

throwaway vocal treatment it deserved, while the instrumental version of "No Woman No Cry" was draped in simple but dignified gospel harmonies. The remainder of the pieces

ranged from pounding blues vamps to a sparky sketch of the sounds and cries of a Jamaican marketplace. Wittiest of all was "Cowboys in the Sky", a fantasia-like miniature dedicated to Alexander's childhood heroes Roy Rogers and Gene Autry, which opened with a parody of a Saturday matinee cowboy tune.

Elsewhere, when Alexander chooses to sing, he makes a decent enough job of it. His voice, like the man himself, is small but neatly proportioned. His most striking asset, however, is a restless left hand whose jagged offbeats prevent even the most mundane melody from settling into a rut.

Playing opposite Alexander is the assertive blues-jazz singer Melba Joyce. Alexander and company conclude their season at the Soho club this Saturday.

CLIVE DAVIS

TELEVISION REVIEW

Nasty, brutish and short of essential human qualities

In a quiet Norfolk garden, a group of men has gathered to enjoy a time-honoured English pursuit. They are burly sons-of-foll, sporting tattoos, T-shirts and beer-guns, looking forward to a relaxing day of sport in the sunshine. One or two have even brought along the kids, who peer over the chicken wire of a makeshift pit. Within two cockerels size each other up, strutting and crowing as the tension mounts. Then, to the cheers of their owners, they tear into each other's flesh.

The dark rituals of cock-fighting formed the backdrop to last night's *Animal Squad* (Channel 4), which traced an RSPCA investigation into a ring of these pitiful thugs, arising from a video sent in by an informant. So much attention has been paid in recent years to the extremist fringe of the animal rights movement that the day-to-day work of mainstream organisations has been rather neglected. From time to time, one needs to be reminded of the people whose unpleasant task it is to chip away daily at the coal-face of human depravity and animal suffering.

You might think that RSPCA officers are soft-spoken, bespectacled types who would not look out of place in a Salvation Army brass band — but not a bit of it. The Special Operations Unit of the film's title was closer to the Sweeney in style and jargon, with plainclothes officers going undercover, "observation vehicles" dug in for the long stake-out, and high-tech video equipment enabling investigators to track down two of the culprits.

What they found was predictably grim, an ancient and barbaric custom surviving amid the mock Tudor, hanging plants and commuters of rural England. Men were spotted arriving at one house with birds in sacks, which were soaked in blood when they left. At another, blood had splashed three feet up the walls of a backroom, apparently used as a dog-fighting pit.

Two dawn police raids uncovered a menagerie of horribly scarred animals, caged discreetly in backgardens between fights. The cocks, it emerged, had gone into battle without the traditional spurs, thus prolonging their agonies. "They don't damage one

another quite so quickly," explained an RSPCA officer.

Cruelty to animals is inevitably an emotive subject (how could it not be?), but the controlled, dead-pan style adopted by the film-makers made this tour of stabby horrors all the more appalling.

Such glimpses of deliberately inflicted pain are the stuff of despair, and on this occasion fortune was not on the side of the angels. The villains of the piece got off on an infuriating legal technicality — though not before threatening to beat hell out of one of the investigators.

Paradoxically, however, the message of *Animal Squad* was upbeat, a tribute to the commitment and resourcefulness of the RSPCA. The dumb brutality of the skinned cockfighter was matched by the ingenuity of the officer on his trail, using every technological means at his disposal to stop the bloodshed. In the tracks of every sadist, it seems, there is a good and diligent man clearing up the mess.

MATTHEW D'ANCONA

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The prince's guinea pigs

George Hill meets the diverse group who are the first students at the newly opened Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture

No house in all London looks as much like an upmarket dolls' house as 15 Gloucester Gate, on the edge of Regent's Park. With its Ionic pediment and ample cornices, it has all the elements of a classical mansion of the 1820s, but in miniature. So much so that it is natural to imagine that the ivory-white facade is on hinges and that one could easily unlatch it and peer inside to see what the dolls are doing.

With the house next door, it makes an appropriate home for the Prince of Wales's new Institute of Architecture, which held its first classes last week. Almost too appropriate for the institute's good, in fact. The two Regency confections seem to embody everything that has been mocked about the prince's initiative. Built with more care for style than structure, the houses take the classical tradition to the very edge of pastiche, while the park is close at hand for anybody who feels impelled to talk to the flowers.

Swing open the front of the prince's new toy, critics might suggest, and you would see the hand-picked puppets in their studios, working away at academic drawings for classical-historical handsets, stamped with the princely influence, and having little to do with the real world of steel, glass and a depressed construction industry.

The 31 students on the institute's one-year foundation course are guinea-pigs in an experiment which has no clear place in our structure of architectural training. When they leave the dolls' house next year, how much use will it be to have a "By Appointment" sign on their portfolios, in a harsh environment of financial constraint and soulless technology?

The seven-year ritual of professional training in Britain is itself in disarray, with the government threatening to truncate it by a year, and job prospects blighted by recession. Employers complain that conventional training is already too academic and unwieldy. Far too many students are dropping out through disenchantment with the way they are taught, and with the diminished role of the architect in an age when it is often accountants and engineers who shape new buildings.

Dr Brian Hanson, director of studies at the institute, is undaunted. "This school is the only one of its kind, and it is very good to be starting it at a time when the whole nature of architectural education is under debate," he says. "How many years should training last? What should the relationship be between the disciplines the building industry needs today? What is an architect? These vast questions are now being asked with a vengeance, as they haven't been for maybe 100 years."

As "secretary in architecture" to the prince for four years, Dr Hanson has helped to form the thinking behind the resounding royal attacks on much modern building and planning. He rejects the charge that his views are based on a nostalgia that disregards the requirements of today. Indeed, he argues, it is the established academic system that is guilty of unwieldiness.

"It is one of our founding

principles that architects should have such an understanding of construction that their whole thinking is through the medium of what materials are, and how they should be used. They need to be completely conversant both with tradition and with what is available today. Today the architect who is trained primarily as an academic is not useful, while one who is thoroughly grounded in construction is very useful."

Meanwhile, in unfinished studios which clearly demonstrate what building materials are and how they are used, the guinea-pigs have been getting down to their classes. They study life drawing, attempt exercises in axonometric projection and attend tutorials on Plato's idea of the city. They have also absorbed the "General Green Circular", which urges them to make full use of the separate waste bins on each floor for rubbish, high quality paper, ordinary paper, bottles and cans.

They are an exceptionally diverse group in age, background and nationality. Some, such as 18-year-old Nicholas Lockhart, are just out of school, seeking a broad grounding in architecture before starting formal training next year. He has already secured a university place. In spite of the institute's anomalous place on the ladder of training, several students have secured grant or loan aid from their educational authorities.

Others, such as Stephen Shaw, 33, a former building contractor, already have working experience of construction. "This course

opens the possibility for me to get an architectural training. The system wouldn't have allowed that otherwise. The architectural schools are quite out of touch with human needs today, anyway. I read the prince's book and saw his television programme, and found I agreed with him on many points, so when I heard of this I applied to join."

Ivan Kniatzev, a practising architect from St Petersburg, heard of the prince's ideas and saw them as relevant to the problems facing the Russian building industry as it makes the transition from state control to private enterprise. Claudia Vogelsang, a landscape architect living in Britain, was attracted by the institute's "broad approach, which keeps your mind busy by connecting work experience and philosophy."

Like several other overseas students, Taida Skaljic, from Bosnia, is impressed with the institute's tutorial system. She cannot tell how long it may be before she will be able to return to her home near Sarajevo and apply the ideas she is learning about construction to the destruction there.

"I already have a degree in architecture," she says. "But it wasn't enough. We never thought about colour or tradition. An architect needs to put art and technology together. Our teachers felt it as well as the students, but that was the way the training was organised."

It is clear that they have a sense of being involved in something new and important, with implications going far beyond architecture.

Professor Keith Crichtlow, director of research and a founder member of the Tenenors arts academy, another initiative that



Building a better future: Professor Keith Crichtlow and students outside the institute

has the prince's backing, has a visible sense of release in his new environment. "It is very promising, a new adventure. If you have been in education as long as I have, teaching in universities where much of what you do has to reflect what other people feel to be important, it is exciting to feel that you are able to concentrate 100 per cent on the things you see as important."

The danger of this kind of crusading atmosphere is that the institute might foster an unchallenged and unduly uniform "house style", blending rehearsed Vitruvian with a taste for offbeat technologies, and a strong dash of ecology. It is clear Dr Hanson means the institute to develop a campaigning role, promoting a distinctive set of architectural values. But he rejects the charge that it will be a monoculture, albeit with a hint of sensitivity. He points to the contrasting approaches of teachers associated with the project, ranging from the cerebral Leon Krier to the hands-on approach of Christopher Alexander, for whom construction and design are inseparable aspects

of the same process. But the prince's influence is so all-pervading at present that the institute will have to be on its guard against falling prey to a single orthodoxy.

Next year the institute will launch a two-year graduate course, and will seek accreditation as a recognised centre for such studies. Student numbers would then grow to about 150. In the longer term, Dr Hanson foresees further expansion, and perhaps a move to Somerset House on the Strand (a capacious classical building which will become vacant as the civil servants move out).

Where the idea will go ultimately is a highly intriguing field for guesswork. The institute's stress on the interplay between different disciplines is one with no clear boundary. In this approach, architecture merges into planning and ecology, and thence into the hazy and much-mocked field of spirituality.

"Of course the problem with architecture is part of a larger problem, a whole outlook on life, and the prince is well aware of this," Dr Hanson says. "He has

applied these ideas in the wider educational field, in agriculture and other areas. I wouldn't presume to extend my own activities beyond the discipline with which I'm familiar. But the idea that parallel disciplines may find common cause with us, or see we are of a mind, is conceivable, and something one might welcome."

A Prince of Wales's university? All this is far off in the future. Meanwhile, if Dr Hanson is ever tempted to let his vision soar too far into the stratosphere, as the institute's critics warn, he need only raise his eyes from his desk to the wall opposite.

Half his study is in an extension made to the building a few years after it was finished. Some Victorian jerry-builder — or an architect who considered such mundane matters beneath his attention — failed to ensure that the join was properly crafted. A gully patchwork of damp is already blossoming up from beneath the new paint, visible proof that the noble art of architecture is not only about ideas and visions but also about keeping out the rain.

Rescued from the front line

The spirit of Dunkirk is sweeping Morayshire as a group of Bosnian mothers and children seeks refuge

It was not, on reflection, the best moment to ask Clare Findlay what she thought of the guidelines issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Twenty-five Bosnian mothers and children had just struggled, exhausted, into her five-bedroom Victorian farmhouse in the north of Scotland, and what the commissioner thought about taking children out of war zones was furthest from her mind.

Did she know that some people disapproved of "this sort of thing"? "Oh, do they?" she said. As for the UN, "instead of criticising us they should do more to try and stop the war". On reflection Mrs Findlay would say she was sure the UN was doing what it could. But what was the alternative?

Elvira, a blonde mother of two whose surname cannot be given for fear of reprisals at home, had graphically drawn an index finger across her throat in answer to sign language attempts to discover what the party had been through.

Not one of the 25 — four mothers and 21 children — speaks a word of English. But the charity British Polish Holidays (BPH), set up originally to bring Poles to Britain for breaks during martial law, had established the group's recent history through Flying Tigers International, a volunteer unit of latterday Scarlet Pimpernels which spirits Bosnian women and children to safety.

This group were plucked from the open mountainside as they fled their village in the Mostar region in the face of the Serbian programme of "racial

cleansing". Escorted to the port of Split they crammed into the Flying Tigers' single-engine Cessna aircraft which normally seats nine in comfort. With the seats stripped out the Czech pilot could manage 25.

The plane flew across Europe for five hours. The little ones had wet themselves and so had the bigger ones. There was simply nowhere to go. "I think I would wet myself as well in a plane for five hours without a loo," said Mrs Findlay, 50, a mother of three, stepmother of two, with her youngest boy at Gordonstoun.

From Gatwick the party was driven for 14 hours by coach to Mrs Findlay at Trochel Hill on the River Spey in Morayshire.

At the Findlay home, with its tennis court, family portraits and Laura Ashley decorations, Mrs Findlay, whose husband is a sales director of Donside Paper Mills in Aberdeen, took the telephone off the hook for ten minutes. The entire county was offering food, clothing or homes.

"There's a bit of the Dunkirk spirit here," she said. She had volunteered to look after one or two Bosnians on a temporary basis when she first heard about BPH two months ago. When BPH found this group on their hands a week earlier than expected, she responded to their plea, and agreed to take the whole lot at 24 hours notice.

"We have the space and I've got the time. I rang Andrew [her husband] at work and said 'Darling, there are 25 coming up and they have nowhere to go.' He said 'Don't be silly, of course they must

come to us, is that what you mean?' I said 'Well I've already said that'."

The group appeared to illustrate to some extent one of the UN Commissioner's objections that mistakes can be made in wartime and that orphans can turn out to have been children separated from their parents.

The opportunities for genuine mistakes and misunderstanding are obvious. But BPH insists that the group are not refugees. They are visitors who have been offered temporary accommodation in Britain by individuals or organisations, and that the charity intends to return them either home or to Austria or Hungary after six months. Their priority is simply to get them out of immediate harm's way: the winter, the Serbs or both.

What do you do? Leave them there? They're all usually related and they come from the same areas and villages. They all help each other," said Sanny King, the operations director.

Each of the two mothers in the group had two of her own children. Of the 14 other children each was with a brother or sister.

Mrs Findlay had been advised they would all be happier, to begin with, sleeping as close to one another as possible because that was the way they lived at home.

Her top floor has become a dormitory. On each pillow she and volunteers put a cuddly toy. Within half an hour of arriving the mothers in charge had washed the children and bedded down some of the smaller ones: who all got up again.

"I have had offers to take them in from all over the place. In one croft around here the children have told their mother they'll move out of their own room."

"We want to keep them all as close together as possible in the same area," Mrs Findlay said. She was even anticipating a Christmas party, although no one has yet established whether the group is Christian or Muslim. But then a party is a party.

By law in Scotland, although not yet in England, social services have to be told if any private fostering arrangement is being entered into which is what would effectively happen when the children are farmed out. Social services will inspect and interview volunteer families. Grampian Regional Council has already seconded a social worker to the Bosnian group.

Mrs Findlay expects to have the group for at least two weeks while they sort out who can go where.

Communication will be a problem. "I bought myself a Serbo Croat phrasebook in Elgin," said Mrs Findlay hopefully. "But we'll manage. You just do." Helped by Gordonstoun school which has miraculously produced a Croatian-born girl student.

All that can be said is that this group is physically safe. Mental safety may be another thing. A low flying RAF Tornado from RAF Lossiemouth had the four teenage girls in the group diving over the arm of Mrs Findlay's sofa.

ALASTAIR ROBERTSON

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Emperors, presidents and popularity

With Brazil's politics in turmoil, two pretenders are claiming the right to the throne, a position vacated 103 years ago

Paulo Bonifacio cautiously guards the pearl and diamond studded crown which sits behind a security screen in the Imperial Palace of Petrópolis and each day he carefully prepares it for public viewing. Then he dusts a golden, velvet, throne before opening up the museum of the small town Brazilian emperors once used as a summer hill resort.

But while some have put the days of emperors, princes and princesses behind them in Brazil, there are two pretenders to the throne who aspire to be crowned and seated on the antiquities Senhor Bonifacio dusts. Backed by a growing band of monarchists, they have begun separate campaigns to convince Brazilians a return to monarchy is what they need, more than 100 years since the monarchy was abolished.

"Our presidential government system has too many flaws and allows for corruption and immorality," claimed Gastão Reis, a monarchist who leads the Movement for Parliamentary Monarchy and backs one of the pretenders.

Senhor Reis is heading a campaign to convince voters that next April, when they vote in a plebiscite to decide between monarchy, a parliamentary system or the already existing presidential system, they should opt for an emperor.

Although his call may seem far-fetched for a country which abandoned its monarchy a 103 years ago, recent polls show 23 per cent of Brazil's 90 million voters may opt for monarchy. Support has increased since an impeachment

trial was opened against President Fernando Collor de Mello, who is accused of involvement in a corruption scandal masterminded by his former campaign treasurer. The pretenders to the throne are from the House of Bragança, descendants of the Portuguese King João VI who was forced to flee to Brazil — then a colony — because of the advances of Napoleon Bonaparte in 1808. King João VI returned to his mother country and left a young son Pedro, in what became independent Brazil.

Dom Pedro I was crowned emperor of Brazil in 1822 and his son, Dom Pedro II, took the throne in 1840. He was last emperor of Brazil and monarchists claim his 48-year rule was marked with an "integrity, morality and international recognition" they would like to see returned to the country.

The last, and most popular, achievement of Dom Pedro II was putting an end to slavery. But it also won him the wrath of immigrant European landowners who launched a republican movement and abolished the monarchy in 1889, forcing Dom Pedro II into exile in France with his family.

Today, 70 years after the royal family was allowed to return to Brazil two men hotly contest the position of heir to the throne. Dom Pedro Gastão de Orleans e Bragança, 88, Dom Pedro II's great-

grandson, who is also related to Spain's King Juan Carlos, is most directly in line. But Dom Luis e Bragança, a descendant of the last emperor's youngest son claims his rival lost the right to the crown when he married a Czech countess who had no royal blood.

Dom Pedro Gastão's children lash back at Dom Luis with allegations that he is unfit to rule because he is single and belongs to an extreme right-wing group, Family Tradition and Propriety, which shuns contact with women and children.

Meanwhile, the hill town of Petrópolis, which lies at the end of a windy road flanked by lush tropical vegetation, 68km north of Rio de Janeiro, is the centre of the pro-monarchy campaign. Dom Pedro Gastão whom locals recognise by his tailored grey suits and trilby hats still lives in the old imperial summer resort.

"This is a very historical town where people have closer contact with the imperial past, although there is a growing support for a return to monarchy all over Brazil, here it is strongest," claims Christina de Bourbon de Orleans e Bragança, 42, and one of Dom Pedro Gastão's six children.

As she sat amid an array of imperial portraits which cover the walls of her home in Petrópolis, she

vociferously put forward her father's claim. "My father wants to moralise Brazil because it is a country without morality. He wants to raise the consciousness of people. 'I think people need to be told about what an emperor or a king really is. They still have an idea of it being some kind of dictator who wears a crown, but what they have to learn is he will be a normal man who is fit to be the moral guardian of the nation. He would not be tied to a party but have a natural power and respect over people.'"

Her claims have much support in Petrópolis where Dom Pedro Gastão is a popular man and where the local economy still relies on tourists who flock to their town to view the pink and white palaces and splendid imperial churches which are scattered all around. "More than 300,000 people visit the main museum at the Imperial Palace alone every year," said Dora Rego Correlia, the deputy director of the museum whose German descendants arrived in Petrópolis before the second world war.

Two of Dom Pedro Gastão's sons, Francisco and Pedro Carlos, who live in Petrópolis also provide employment to a large number of local people. One runs the local newspaper *Tribuna de Petrópolis* and the other area's biggest real estate agency. In exchange, the 280,000 who populate Petrópolis

are obliged to pay a yearly land and property tax called "imfiteuse", to maintain the royal family.

But while dozens of people on the streets of Petrópolis spoke proudly about the man who intends to make their town a true imperial capital once again and claims monarchy is a better choice than a flawed presidential system, a number of locals prefer to keep the emperor a thing of the past.

"I think most people will vote for a parliamentary system as they are truly disappointed with President Collor," said Paulo Bonifacio. President Collor, who has been temporarily stripped of his office because of an impeachment trial, was Brazil's first democratically elected president in 29 years. But although Brazilians protested against alleged corruption which marked his years in office, thousands turned out on the streets last week to show their faith in democracy.

"Some people may be convinced that if this was once again an imperial capital things would improve for them," Senhor Bonifacio said.

"But they forget that through most of the last emperor's reign there was slavery and feudalism, and the royal family had control over all the funds and paid no one. How could there have been inflation and corruption?"

For him the splendid crown, sceptre and grandiose throne are best kept in the museum and in the past.

GABRIELLA GAMINI



Seat for an emperor: Paulo Bonifacio dusts the golden throne



Family planning: Roseanne Barr and Tom Arnold celebrate their marriage, with her son Jake and other family members. In therapy, she says, we learnt to be parents

Putting the family on the couch

All over America, families are solving their problems through therapy. Kate Muir reports on the success of a national obsession

So popular is family therapy, that Hollywood moguls are considering making a sequel to *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids* called *Honey, I Shrink the Kids*. Such are the weak jokes doing the rounds of family therapists, but their content is spot-on. With the word "family" replacing "Big Mac" as the mainstay of America's vocabulary, the therapy boom comes as no surprise.

While President Bush and Vice-President Quayle prefer to have the words "family values" in every soundbite, the Democratic dream team is fond of sharing its heartfelt appreciation of "family therapy". Bill Clinton does it, the comedian Roseanne Arnold, née Barr, does it, and Woody Allen ought to. Nowadays, the right-on family has outages to the therapist, not the beach.

Mr Clinton says he sought family therapy when his half-brother was being treated for drug addiction, and that he grew up having to protect his brother and mother from the anger of his alcoholic stepfather. Being the "peacemaker" made him reluctant to impose his will on others — not ideal credentials for the presidency. But he says therapy has helped him overcome that.

Mrs Arnold and her real-life husband Tom took her three children from their previous marriage into therapy with them, after she realised she had been suppressing memories of parental abuse she had suffered as a child. She was overweight, her husband had a drug problem, and her children were playing truant. "We all started therapy together," she told an American magazine. "We went every day and every night. Individual counselling for each of the kids, family therapy, my therapy,

Tom's therapy, marriage counselling. We learnt to be parents. Unravelling the 'happy family' fantasy is the hardest thing I've ever done."

Star endorsements of family therapy have done the movement no harm. Qualified practitioners have doubled in the past ten years to 20,000 in America. In Britain, the actor John Cleese co-wrote *Families and How to Survive Them* with the psychiatrist Robin Skynner. Mr Cleese also lobbies for the family therapy movement.

Why is there such enthusiasm and outspokenness? Virginia Rutter of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy says: "People are quite proud to say they're going to family therapy. It sounds positive, whereas they're still embarrassed and secretive about going to a psychiatrist. The fact that candidates like Clinton and Gore can talk about it without the public saying: 'Oh my God' indicates how acceptable it is."

Family therapy also produces results far faster than conventional psychoanalysis. "Ten sessions can often be enough, whereas psychoanalysis of the same individual alone might go on for five years," says Dr Peter Steinglass, the director of the Ackerman Institute for Family Therapy in New York. "You get better quality information — four perspectives are better than one."

The non-profit Ackerman Institute — America's first and largest family therapy centre, established in 1960 — is in a rambling old townhouse in Manhattan. It is intentionally more like a home than a clinic, and in its

waiting room there are tiny red chairs and toys for toddlers. But how can two-year-olds participate in therapy?

"Therapists differ on that, but I find having the parents in the room with young kids who start disrupting the session becomes very revealing. You can see whether the child's behaviour disrupts the adult agenda, and the extent to which parents are working as a team and sharing the disciplining — things they might never tell you. And often young children can just sense the tension; I mean, they won't stand up and say: 'I think our anxiety level is getting a bit high here,' but they'll act up because they pick up things an adult might not notice," Dr Steinglass says.

Children are more likely to tell the truth. "If the father is saying 'I'm always home to help with the kids by seven', a five-year-old will say 'No, you're not Daddy' and then we all learn something."

Many families initially arrive with a "problem" member — the anorexic daughter, the drug-taking son, the bad-wetting eight-year-old — and find, after just a few sessions, that the child's problem is a result of the parents' repressed tension and anger. "Children often become difficult in order to distract attention from their parents' fighting or split," Dr Steinglass says.

Family therapy is far more interventionist than psychoanalysis. Solutions can be both simple, and rather peculiar. Sometimes a family will be told to sit down to dinner together every day, something that has perhaps not happened regularly for five years. Because family behaviour is so

ingrained, breaking down habits and turning home-life upside down often brings psychological changes.

In one case a husband and wife could not handle their obstreperous son. The therapist suggested that the boy only listen to his father's instructions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and his mother's on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. On Sunday, they could work together. He told the boy: "I want to remind your Mom or Dad when it's their turn, and if either steps out of line, report it to me." By breaking a long-held behaviour pattern and disrupting the family's expectations, each parent stopped undermining the other and they were forced into finding some other way to hold the family together.

Often nothing more than talking is required. Dr Steinglass says: "You can't imagine how often families come in here, and they just have not sat down together and discussed the problem fairly. They live in the same house, but they just don't talk. Sometimes you get dramatic results straightaway."

Unlike one-to-one analysis, family therapy can involve a whole group of professionals who can often suggest solutions when the therapist has reached an impasse. Most therapy sessions at the Ackerman Institute take place in a video room, which has one wall made of one-way mirrors, behind which trainees and the supervisor can watch. The session is also taped for later discussion. The families, reared in an age of home videos,

find this normal, and are rarely inhibited after the first five minutes.

If a trainee — already a qualified doctor or social worker — is taking the session, the supervisor can ring through on an intercom phone. "He'll tell the trainee that he hasn't addressed a question to the father for 15 minutes, or suggest another tack of questioning," says Dr Steinglass.

In some practices, families are sometimes shown the video playback of themselves. Therapists Wendell Ray and William Saxon say they can cut down sessions from ten to about four using this. "It lets us see ourselves as others see us. When families of couples view segments from their own therapy, it isolates the problem and lets the family decide what to do about it."

Much of the Ackerman Institute's time is taken up with the families of drug addicts and alcoholics, now one in five of American families. It also deals with families in which one parent has admitted to abuse or incest with a child, as well as infertile couples and homosexual families.

Seeing half-destroyed families every day makes therapists cynical about "family values" being the cure for their country's ills. "It rather misses the point," Ms Rutter says. "It takes hard work to hold families together, not an election manifesto."

Those views are cynically reflected in a recent edition of a marketing strategy magazine, *The Trends Journal*. "Marketers: Think of the return to family values as you would think of *Batman Returns*. It's exploitable but will vanish from the public consciousness when its screen run is completed. The issue is an election-year fad."

Family therapy, however, remains a growth market.

Conkered by nature

Warm up your oven, fetch down the vinegar, and unearth the varnish from the top shelf of your shed. It's that time of year. Forget the mist and mellow fruitfulness: everyone with children knows that it is conker time.

Each year I marvel at the repeated miracle of nature. Of all the eccentric systems of seed-spreading — transported in the gullets of migrating birds, adhered to the prickly backs of hedgehogs, flown through the air on helicopter-winged sycamores — surely the horse-chestnut has evolved the oddest method of propagation. To broadcast your fruit, send it off to prosper in new ground via the blazer pockets of schoolboys.

Every autumn the world is spread and a new generation of children learns the ancient vinegar 'n' varnish culture of conker hardening. Some will always believe in the slow, overnight baking technique: a few whippersnappers are unwisely experimenting with microwave technology. Something stronger than conker string amazes young children to the wonders of the natural world at this time of year. I learnt this at nursery school, my children's not my own. As I stood at the gates with a carrier bag of gleaming bronze beauties, I found that all the other mothers were similarly laden. Ms Porter said, accepting the load as gratefully as she could, "yes, there's a lot of Nature around at this time of year."

As the leaves turn gold, the children turn green, fascinated by the dramatic spectacle of seasonal change and deeply concerned about conservation issues. What used to be merely a puzzle to splash through in your wellies now elicits the cry, "look mum, an acid rain pool!" Park squirrels prompt the enquiry, "is that an endangered species?"

The haphazard collection of twigs and bugs we used to know as the "nature table" has become a resource centre for topic work on environmental studies. As a parent you can turn some of this enthusiasm to advantage. If you can redirect their interest from slimy fungi in woods and get access to the few fields where early morning mushrooms are still to be found, everyone gets a tastier breakfast. And it is still possible to find lonely lanes of sloe berries. Though these are inedible when picked, they can be transformed into a wonderful Christmas delicacy. The children enjoy the afternoon of combat with nature, collecting them and then take pleasure in the preparation ceremony, learnt at their grandmother's knee.

Essential ingredients for preparing this are a packet of darning needles and a



DAVINA LLOYD

large bottle of gin. The children prick holes in the sloes, while granny and I make enough space in the bottle to fit in the berries. A fine example of nature and nurture in unison.

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From small beginnings . . .

Scientists are extracting DNA from creatures that died 30 million years ago, reports Nigel Hawkes

In the plot of the science fiction novel *Jurassic Park*, a scientist is commissioned by a mad millionaire to bring dinosaurs back to life. He does so by extracting the genetic information from a dinosaur from the DNA found in a blood-sucking insect preserved in amber.

In life, the creature had feasted on a dinosaur. In death, it had been miraculously preserved with fragments of dinosaur blood inside its body. Extracted, the blood provided the basis for reconstructing an entire dinosaur.

As a novel the book works splendidly, but as science most people have dismissed it. Now the very scientist who first set novelist Michael Crichton off on his ingenious plot believes that it may not be so far-fetched after all.

George Poinar, an entomologist from the University of California, writes in his book *Life in Amber* of the possibility of reconstructing ancient single-celled organisms such as fungi, bacteria and protozoa. After that, he says, we might think of rebuilding even more impressive creatures . . .

Dr Poinar's optimism is based on the astonishing success that he and others have had in extracting DNA from long-dead insects. Recently he and a group at the American Museum of Natural History virtually dead-headed in a race to extract DNA from specimens about 30 million years old.

Dr Poinar got his sample from a stingless bee, while the other group, led by David Grimaldi, extracted and sequenced DNA from a termite of about the same age. Both had been preserved in amber, a natural material produced from resin by processes that are still not fully understood.

Both of these specimens comfortably beat the earlier record, held by Edward Golenberg of Wayne State University, who found DNA in a fossilised magnolia leaf 17 million years old. To begin with, as a recent issue of *Science* reports, Dr Golenberg's achievement was regarded



One small step for science fiction: novelists have fantasised about the possibility of reconstructing extinct creatures, such as these dinosaurs at the Natural History Museum. New research on fossils has lent more than a grain of truth to their imaginings.

as faintly implausible, since nobody could see how the DNA had survived the process of fossilisation.

These critics have now been largely satisfied by comparisons between the DNA sequences of the fossil magnolia and those of its modern equivalent, which show that the two are close. Doubts about the results had arisen because of the very sensitivity of the techniques used, which run the risk of amplifying minute contamination of the sample.

All the investigators use a technique called polymerase chain reaction or PCR, basically a way of copying very small samples of DNA again and again until a detectable amount is produced. In principle, a single molecule of DNA is sufficient, using this method; but the downside is the risk that what you are detecting is contamination rather than sample.

For this reason Rob DeSalle, a member of the American Museum

of Natural History team, extracted the DNA from the 30-million-year-old termite in a laboratory far from the PCR machine.

They removed the whole insect from the surrounding amber, extracted the DNA from it, and found that they had very little. Thanks to PCR, however, they were able to

Ancient genes can be compared with their modern counterparts

amplify a sequence 200 base pairs long. They then compared the sequence, part of a gene carrying the code responsible for creating a protein essential for ribosome production, with the same sequence in a modern termite of the same species.

"We could see enough shared and derived features that we're

confident the DNA can't be anything but termite," DeSalle told *Science*.

Ahead lie even older specimens. Dr Poinar is trying to get DNA from 80-million-year-old biting flies preserved in amber from Alberta, Canada. Dr Golenberg is going for the 100-million-year mark with some leaves from Nebraska. Brian Farrell from the University of Colorado in Boulder, is encouraged by results so far in his study of a 200-million-year-old fish fossil, while Noreen Tuross at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC is working on a 400-million-year-old fossil mollusc.

If they succeed, it will be a dramatic demonstration of technique, but will it tell us anything useful? The hope is that it will, by opening up a whole new field of science called molecular palaeontology. For the first time it should be possible to compare the genes of ancient, long-extinct creatures with

their modern counterparts.

Dr Grimaldi's interest is in trying to establish why the termite he is studying, *Mastotermes electrodomesticus*, eventually disappeared from the Caribbean, and has left behind only a single descendant, *Mastotermes darwiniensis*, which lives in Australia. The ancient creature and its modern counterpart are quite similar in size and appearance, but it remains a mystery why a group that was once quite widespread is now represented by a single species. He hopes that studying the DNA may ultimately provide some clues.

This is, of course, still a long way from recreating creatures in the manner of *Jurassic Park*. The fragments of DNA that are extracted represent only a tiny fraction of the entire genome, and in the opinion of most scientists, reassembling extinct creatures remains a fantasy.

But that, Dr Poinar says, is what most of his colleagues said when he first proposed extracting DNA from insects preserved in amber.

Early humans 'scavenged'

A new study of our ancestors argues that two million years ago, man was not a hunter. He was eating leftovers

The myth of Man the Mighty Hunter has again been challenged. Our earliest ancestors may well have established themselves economically by picking up the leftovers of lions, hunting hyenas out of the way and vanquishing vultures in an unopposed squabble over rotting meat and bone marrow. Such is the conclusion of a new study of potential adaptations carried out by Robert Blumenshine and John Cavallo of Rutgers University in New Jersey, according to *Scientific American* (267, No 4, 90-97). "Scavenging may have been more common than hunting two million years ago. Flaked stone toolmaking, the practice of

that early humans had simply broken up the bones from carnivore kills, getting as much protein as they needed from the fatty marrow, most of their diet. Like that of apes, would have been vegetarian.

Professors Blumenshine and Cavallo now argue that by exploiting "windows of opportunity" between a carnivore's killing of an animal and the arrival of scavengers, our ancestors were able to obtain generous amounts of meat. Both leopard kills, which are stored in trees, and the carcasses of animals that died of natural causes, would often be open for exploitation for as much as a day.

Cut marks on some bones show where joints were severed and meat sliced off, while the preponderance of head and limb bones at one Olduvai location over a million years old shows that hominids got to the animals before hyenas crushed the bones.

Hominids probably took small prey with their hands

Recent anthropological studies of human foragers in southern Africa had documented "avid scavenging", previously unmarked. "The earliest hominids probably scavenged and took small prey with their hands, as chimpanzees and baboons do. "Only their next step was unique: they began to use tools to butcher large carcasses that non-human primates cannot exploit. The difficulty of this leap belies the charge that scavenging offers no challenge that might select for human qualities" such as a larger brain and mammal dexterity, they suggest. If such carcass foods were not found in the same place as plant resources, then cooperative foraging from a common home base would have been a viable way of living.

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A dreary panorama all round

Paul Woolwich continues the debate on the uncertain future of current affairs television with an attack on timid scheduling and impossible demands

Peaktime current affairs on Britain's two most popular channels is plunging into a sterling crisis of its own. We are witnessing a realignment of the currency of broadcast journalism: to increase interest rates, not lower them.

ITV appears to be favouring devaluation. The BBC is desperately supporting *Panorama*, its pious flagship, as it bumps along the bottom of the acceptable Audience Ratings Monitor floor. No one denies that in a healthy democracy there should be accessible, hard-hitting television journalism with a commitment to challenge those in authority, expose what the powerful choose to hide and ask the difficult questions.

But in the future will such programming be in the schedules, either on ITV or BBC1, at a time when most people are available to watch?

According to Marcus Plantin, ITV's newly appointed central scheduler, it has no place in prime-time — between 6.30pm and 10.30pm — if it fails to attract eight million viewers per show. That is the size of audience a first-rate comedy would envy, and an impossible target for a genre whose credibility rests on tackling difficult or demanding subjects which traditionally do not attract mass audiences.

For the new editors of current affairs it is Catch 22: survive in prime-time with a trivialised tabloid approach and win 8 million viewers but lose all authority; or maintain ITV's distinguished record for covering the issues that matter and risk smaller audiences, guaranteeing ignominious consignment to a slot after *News at Ten*. The first option invites ridicule, the second a drop in budgets and a loss of influence.

At present, Granada's *World in Action* gets an average of 7.5 million and Thames's *This Week*

6.5 million, with programmes covering everything from the collapse of the economy to major investigations into corruption and miscarriages of justice.

ITV's one hour of popularised current affairs draws more than the combined audiences for all the BBC's five weekly shows, at a fraction of the cost. It doesn't follow the news, it makes it, and gives the whole independent network journalistic prestige.

On this page last week, Glenwyn Benson, the editor of *Panorama*, argued that it was the stiff competition from commercial television's current affairs that kept *Panorama* honest. With the threatened marginalisation of WIA and the demise of *This Week* (which disappears in December after 36 years),

"How are we to be kept as honest as we were by ITV?" she asked, intimating that the BBC will be the only supplier of serious current affairs in peak-time on the two main channels in future.

She may be right, but what a sad indictment that would be of our broadcasting heritage. After all,

Panorama isn't exactly a showcase for compelling, pertinent or watchable current affairs. With a few notable exceptions it fails to engage a broad general audience.

When, in 1984, Michael Grade, then the BBC1 controller, moved the programme to the 9.30pm slot he wanted at least 5.5 million people — one in ten of the population — to tune in. It actually exceeded his expectations with story-led films that explained issues and reflected the human condition.

Three years later, John Birt was appointed director of news and current affairs. He introduced the "mission to explain" — laudable in theory but disastrous in practice; it translated into ponderously dull, analytical programming, and audiences began to plummet.

In the trade press, *Panorama* has



On location: David Dimbleby in South Africa for a 1990 *Panorama* on that country's future

been trumpeting an increase over the summer while its competition was off the air. The audience had gone from 3.4 million to 4.3 million which, Ms Benson said, "proved it's getting the mix right and maintaining its reputation for solid reporting".

Unfortunately, many of its brightest and most talented staff voted with their feet during that same period. One recent edition, on the plight of Britain's horse racing industry, rated just 3.5 million.

Of course it has produced some award-winning investigative journalism, typified by "The Max Factor", which revealed Robert Maxwell's pension fund skulduggery. But, while the programme was stylishly produced, it would have been incomprehensible to the average viewer.

To be honest, *Panorama*'s fundamental problem has little to do with competition from ITV. Its difficulties stem from the "mission to explain", and the absence of a clearly defined role. So it rarely makes waves or gets noticed.

The Birt strategy for the BBC's new philosophy of "distinctiveness" relies on issue-based specialist current affairs programming. Foreign affairs is covered by *Assignment*, politics by *On the Record*. Financial matters are the responsibility of *The Money Programme* and all social issues the preserve of *Public Eye*. Admittedly most are tucked away on BBC2, but what territory is left for the generalists of the BBC1 flagship?

At the moment its reputation is tarnished, after the postponement of several politically sensitive editions: on the SAS after *Death on the Rock*, "Supergun" during the Gulf war, the "Slide into Slump" on the eve of the last election. Its staff are demoralised, its purpose confused and its audience appeal limited. During the general election, twice as many people watched Sir Robin Day's interviews with the three party leaders on *This Week* rather than those conducted by David Dimbleby on *Panorama*.

The crisis of confidence is palpable. Despite having a head of weekly current affairs with special responsibility for *Panorama*, an editor, two deputies and some of the most senior journalists in the BBC it has gone outside to a rival, LWT, to employ an editorial consultant to advise them on how to do their jobs. Perhaps it should concentrate on more popularised original journalism and not shy away from controversy.

ITV's dilemma is financial. Following the franchise fiasco the companies that now make up the network owe the Government £350 million. Any prime-time programme must attract mass audiences and the advertising revenue that generates.

In its invitation to apply for the franchises, the Independent Television Commission (ITC) defined current affairs as programming which contains "explanation and analysis of current events and

issues, including material dealing with political or industrial controversy or with current public policy". Anything less is classified as documentary or feature material.

Although the ITC can no longer insist such programming appears in peak-time it will ensure its requirements on journalistic content and quality are satisfied.

When Carlton applied for, and won, the London weekday franchise held by Thames, it promised in its application that *Seven Days*, its replacement for *This Week*, had a brief "to report and analyse major topical events and issues with authority, insight and accuracy", and would be scheduled in prime-time. Carlton put no figure on the ratings it expected.

The other replacements for *This Week* include 13 editions of *Central's Cook Report* and a new short item magazine show from Yorkshire TV called *3D*.

We will have to wait and see if these programmes fulfil the ITC's remit — and, if they do not, what action the watchdog will take.

The shake-up in British broadcasting was supposed to enhance quality, competition and choice. But with *Panorama* failing to find an audience with its narrow concept of journalism, and ITV abdicating its public service responsibilities in favour of making money, the only seriously challenging, gritty current affairs in prime-time next year could be Channel 4's *Dispatches*.

● The author is editor of *This Week* and a former deputy editor of *Panorama*.

Glossy picture of gloom

And now for some really good news: the advertising industry is on its last legs

This is the misty season of the year when, back in the glitzy 1980s, London's top advertising agencies would scoop up hundreds of the best and brightest young graduates and promise them a career crammed with Porsche.

But things ain't what they used to be, and this year's small crop of greenhorns will find the outlook more lugubrious than luxurious. Not that I expect this sad news will make many people sob themselves to sleep tonight.

Even in the hardest of times advertising is not a profession that elicits tears and sympathy. Even before the 1980s most people believed advertising types to be overpaid, overrated, oversexed, but rarely overworked.

How have the mighty fallen. One of the few entertaining aspects of the recession is the sight of agency chairmen lug their own big black artwork bags about. Some of them have even been forced to learn

how to switch the video equipment on and off. Bag carriers and switch switchers were among the first to go in the cutback and top agencies folk now have to do their own skivvy. I doubt if that will make you weep either.

Noticing an air of malaise among his staff, none of whom had had a salary increase for some years, the chairman of one of the top agencies last month called them all together for a pep talk. He could not guarantee things would get better quickly, he began less than rousing, but somewhere over the rainbow life in advertising would one day gleam brighter than bright again. His flock dispersed, more dejected than ever.

Few advertising people now believe that their business will recover its lustre this side of 2001. During the past 12 months a plethora of learned forecasts has been published — the latest by Saatchi itself — all of which presage doom and gloom for as far ahead as the eye can see. Even when the recession ends, so the soothsayers say, advertising will remain a depressed industry.

If they come true, such predictions have even an direr significance for the media, and for the economy at large, than they do for the agencies. If advertising is really going to stagnate then all the newspapers and magazines, and all the new television and radio stations are in for truly gruesome times. So is the economy. If advertisers continue not to spend, consumers will continue not to buy. Advertising generates demand: less advertising, less demand.

Happily, I'm a little Pollyanna. As soon as the forecasters unanimously agree about anything they are bound to be wrong. During the late 1980s all

the econometric gypsies peered into their computerised crystal balls and prophesied that advertising would escalate forever. No sooner had the gurus spoken than advertising plummeted. The lack of demand has caused the cost of advertising to fall. Indeed advertising is now, in historic terms, dirt

cheap. And eventually — it may not be this year, but it will not be long — advertisers will recall the old adage that doing business without advertising is like walking at a woman in the dark: you know what you're doing, but nobody else does.

Advertising has never been quite as glitzy as its image, but over the long haul it has been and will continue to be a modestly growing business. It has fluctuated between 1 per cent and 2 per cent of the gross national product for more than half a century, as long as records have been kept.

And it is much more stable than conventional wisdom suggests. J. Walter Thompson has been in business since 1878; far longer than Ford, or IBM, or Marks & Spencer.

So the handful of young Turks who enter advertising this year will see their salaries shoot up as the industry pays the inevitable price for having been unable to recruit in sufficient numbers, and begins to invest in its own future. There may still be a few Porsches at the end of their rainbow. If, that is, Porsche is still in business.

SELLING POINT

Winston Fletcher



Change of scene for Newcastle's finest

The hit children's series *Byker Grove* has gone on tour

The blimpish japes of Billy Bunter are not the sort of thing that big-wigs at the BBC wish to see on their screens, but the goings on at *Byker Grove* most certainly are. A twice-weekly show which portrays the ups and downs of adolescence in Newcastle upon Tyne, it returns for a fourth series on October 13.

The first episode of *Byker Grove* went out on November 7, 1989. Although shown at 5.10pm as part of Children's BBC, the third series regularly achieved audience figures in excess of six million. Produced by Zenith North for the BBC, the show has now reached the stage where it is being written, planned, shot, edited and/or transmitted all year round.

"I make no distinction between drama for children and drama for adults," says Matthew Robinson, the producer-director of the series. "My aim is to make drama of the highest possible quality. Of course there are certain restrictions that one has to abide by — no one can swear and no

one can say 'God!' — but the stories we tell are the ones that interest us most."

Mr Robinson has an impressive track record in popular television drama. He was one of the first directors of *EastEnders* and has also worked on *Bergerac* and *Howards Way*. *Byker Grove* was created by Andrea Worfor, now Controller, Arts and Entertainment, at Channel 4. A veteran scriptwriter of *Coronation Street*. Between them, the writing team has contributed scripts to *Casualty*, *Juliet Bravo*, *Angela and The Bill*. If there is more than a whiff of soap in the skilful splicing of multifarious plot lines, the brand is not Lux but Zest. The series is a bracing mix of high drama and low comedy which fully exploits the photogenic locations of Newcastle.

"Casting the right actors, fixing the budget and getting the programmes made in time are all difficult enough," Mr Robinson says, "but finding suitable stories is the hardest task. The writers are constant-

ly getting together with the cast to find out what they would like to see in the series, and I'm always writing to fans to ask them for ideas."

Past series have dealt with everything from the dangers of joy-riding to a girl's first kiss. Topics to be covered in the 20 new episodes include ram-raiding, the loss of virginity and even gang warfare. "We don't do issues as such," Mr Robinson says. "Ram-raiding isn't an issue, and we're not drawing a moral. Ram-raiding is clearly something you don't do, like robbery, but it's part of another ongoing storyline."

"In the same way one of the main characters becomes embroiled with a sinister cult. Now cultism is much more of an issue but again it is wrapped round another story — a love story as it happens — and as it develops the audience will deduce that such organisations are dangerous. Evil should never be seen to triumph but nobody would watch an issue being debated unless it was embedded in a



From Tyne to Bay: Matthew Robinson in San Francisco

good human interest story." Most of the action takes place in and around the youth club that gives the series its name. In 1990 the BBC bought the sprawling pile, known locally as the Mitre, from Whitbread, the brewers. Previous owners include the Coal Board, the Bishop of Newcastle and the family of silver-buckled Bobby Shaftoe. However, the first episode of the new series opens in San Francisco.

"The second series ended with a car crash which caused a lot of controversy, but was inevitably downbeat," Mr

Robinson says. "We therefore needed an upbeat ending for the third and so it closed with Spuggie (the nickname comes from the Geordie word for sparrow) flying off to see her best friend Joanne who had gone to live with her step-family in California."

"Filming abroad is always a risk, but if we produced something that was always the same, it would be like a pizza. One of the great things about *Byker Grove* is that, when you turn it on, you never know what you're going to get."

MARK SANDERSON

A new BBC magazine puts the World Service into words

And nation shall write unto nation

In the summer of 1990 I, as the editor of *The Listener*, went to see John Tusa, the managing director of the BBC's World Service. The magazine had problems, among them the narrowing target of its potential readers in Britain, faced as they were with an explosion of print from the serious newspapers.

Equally troubling was the weakening of the link between the magazine and the BBC since the decision in 1987 to put *The Listener* into the joint ownership of the BBC and the ITV companies. From then on, neither side was to feel fully committed to it, and ITV was already pulling out.

What I suggested to Mr Tusa was that it could be in both our interests for *The Listener* to pitch itself more consciously at the global audience of the BBC World Service. Already I had been making more use of the network of foreign correspondents, and had formed links with the English language service team at Bush House.

He listened, offered his directorate's goodwill, but left me with two clear impressions: that he would not offer funds in the cause; and that, within Bush House itself, there were also stirrings about producing a publication more substantial than *London Calling*, the monthly programme and wavelength guide that since 1939 had been giving tens of thousands of listeners essential information but had little room for wider-ranging fare.

In December 1990, another BBC executive informed me of the decision to close *The Listener*. Last week, Mr Tusa hosted the launch celebration for *BBC Worldwide*, a handsomely designed, full-colour, glossy, 100-page magazine.

Its contents still contain the month's details of the BBC World Service schedule, in a centre section with its own title-page: *London Calling*, reckoned by now too strong a

brand name to ditch. But the rest of the issue spans a wide range of interests and activities and a global perspective, in articles that can be 2,000 words long or more.

Among its writers are names from without the BBC and within, including John Newell, the World Service's science editor, and Andrew Whitehead, the political editor. One of its biggest features, on organised crime, brings together contributions from



Global issues: the new title

BBC correspondents in several different countries — a device that Steve Weinman, the editor, intends to be a regular.

Mr Weinman was, I know now, already incubating the idea all that time ago. But he, too, had to operate under Mr Tusa's financial discipline. First, as editor of *London Calling*, that publication was to be made to cover its costs; then the new magazine must be demonstrated to be a viable commercial proposition. So a long process of dummy issues and research was carried out before, earlier this year, he got the green light.

One dummy issue, from last year, still has on its title page a small reproduction of the dummy from the year before. Its title then: *BBC World Listener*.

If that gives an open acknowledgement of one line

of the project's ancestry, its disappearance marks Mr Weinman's determination to create something in tune with his own audience's needs. A research project, by the World Service's own audience research department, included group discussions held in Brussels, Bahrain and New York.

"It was an example of research being a real help to editorial thinking," Mr Weinman says. "Last year's dummy was very busy, with a majority of one or two-page articles. The reaction of the research groups was that they wanted more meat, something to get their teeth into. That gave us the confidence to go for longer features."

The groups also failed to relate to the cumbersome *BBC World Listener* title. Besides, since then, the launch and rapid spread of BBC World Service television has given the magazine a new source of subject matter.

But perhaps the biggest departure is in the new month's financing and distribution. The *London Calling* section of *BBC Worldwide* will also be reprinted separately and made available free, especially in developing countries, to those who cannot afford to buy it.

But *BBC Worldwide* aims to sell itself, with a target circulation of 75,000 copies, to upmarket advertisers — airlines, hotels, financial services — that might want to reach a far-flung audience.

And, following where World Service radio itself has gone only in recent years, it will also be available, price £1.75, on bookstalls in Britain itself — in the London area at first, but rolling out more widely if the demand proves to be there.

Those who were with *The Listener* will watch for that with a particularly poignant interest.

PETER FIDDICK

In-flight TV takes off

Personalised entertainment is a burgeoning market

information service in the country," says Tony Hall, director of news and current affairs at the BBC. "We want to promote that valuable brand image."

But it's not just news services which may have found a new audience. "Soon," says Peter Montieth of Scott Risenman, a major producer of in-flight material for airlines, "airplanes will be mini television stations in the sky."

With the arrival of flat screen seat-back television sets in many aircraft, with Virgin leading the way, the passenger can be offered the

same kind of programme choice they have long been given on the music channels. The individual television carry up to ten channels of entertainment and advertising. "With ten channels, there's the option for four movie channels, children's programmes, news and current affairs and six stereo audio channels," Mr Montieth says. British Airways is investing more than £30 million in seat-back sets for passengers in first and business classes.

Other airlines have also dramatically improved their

in-flight fare. This summer, when the pound was stable enough for even the way to go abroad, passengers on nearly 30 airlines were treated to daily edited highlights of the Olympics. The output from the games was beamed directly from Barcelona to the London editing suites of Chrysalis Television, where, working through the night, half-hour packages were compiled to be made either into tapes for distribution to airlines in this country, or beamed by satellite to production centres around the world.

One major advantage for programme makers is that there are no regulations covering such delicate areas as sponsorship, unlike the extended procedures which always take place on earth. Chrysalis's Olympic programme was sponsored by Coca-Cola, Panasonic, Rayban and Time-Life to the tune of about £200,000.

In this technology-driven area of the media airlines and manufacturers are already getting excited about the next arrival: interactive television.

"You'll be able to order your duty-free on a touch screen," Mr Montieth says, "and when you get off the plane at your destination, the goods will be waiting for you."

And who knows, maybe your luggage will be there too.

ROBIN HUNT

MANAGEMENT

Curing an absent mind

Absenteeism is a problem afflicting local authorities, Hugh Thompson writes. But there are solutions

Absenteeism is a problem for public sector management. While the CBI estimates that the norm in the private sector is about seven days a year, the Audit Commission calculated two years ago that the local council average is 19.3 days lost a year per worker.

Firemen are absent on average 15 days. Post Office workers 14 days and policemen 12 days. Some areas were worse than others. The direct labour force in Camden, London, averaged 40 days lost a year, while in the same borough's leisure department both white and blue collar workers were absent more than ten weeks a year — as well as taking their six week holiday. A study at a Canterbury prison found that officers took an average five weeks off a year sick.

Those working in the public sector bristle at the suggestion that union power has reduced management's ability to manage. They also say any suggestion that Tory-controlled Wandsworth and Westminster had far better absentee records than Labour controlled Camden or Lambeth misses the point. "Each absentee is a personal story usually connected to stress," a spokesman for Camden says.

However, Colin Carmichael, Camden's director of corporate services, says: "The Audit Commission made a long list of recommendations, to which we added a few. Our rates of absenteeism are now down to just over the national average, that is, Camden white collar workers are off sick about eight days a year and manual workers about 11 days. We still have some way to go. I have been doing this job for three years and the work environment has totally changed. No one takes time off without it being noticed. That wasn't true before."



Warning: Tarquin De Soutter says that people talk of absenteeism but do little about it

"Absenteeism is now a priority at our monthly management meetings. We have put in procedures which allow us to dismiss those whose levels of absenteeism are high and several have gone. This has made everyone think twice. Senior managers now have part of their bonus calculated on the levels of sickness in their departments, they can also be disciplined."

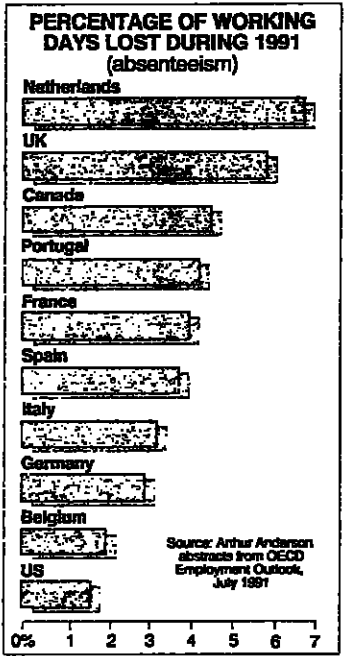
Britain as a whole has nearly 50 per cent more absenteeism than the European average. Since self-certification for up to three days sickness was introduced in 1982 as a way of relieving pressure on doctors' surgeries, women have more than doubled their number of sickdays off and men are taking 55 per cent more. However, many point to the pressure the doctor is under when in a three-minute consultation he has to determine the "genuineness" of a complaint.

Earlier this year Islington council sacked a maintenance man who had taken two years on half pay. The reason the council won the tribunal was that the man refused to undergo a check-up.

Tarquin De Soutter runs the absentee reduction unit at consultants Arthur Andersen. He says: "Some public sector organisations are exemplary. Our research shows that even in the private sector nearly half of all companies don't keep proper figures on the subject. In some council departments

where the jobs are boring, efforts could be made to make them more interesting and to put workers into bonus related teams to build up peer pressure. Everywhere people talk of absenteeism being a priority issue but they do not like doing too much about it as it involves disturbance of the work place culture."

Birmingham city council has faced the problem of absenteeism



head on. Stephen Ward, the director of management and personnel, says: "We have set ourselves targets of getting blue collar absenteeism down to 5 per cent of days worked and white collar down to 3 per cent. I don't see sickness related absenteeism as a public versus private sector thing, but as related to size of the organisation. Birmingham council is twice as large as the next biggest local employer."

"Our philosophy is to break everything down into small units where the manager is personally in touch. Our 55,000 employees are involved in 1,400 work units. Our slogan is that every absence, even for a day, must generate a manager's response. If someone is ill the manager must at least enquire about their health. Making people loyal to their team rather than the bigger organisation is a vital part of our strategy."

CORRECTION

An article on this page (September 29) incorrectly stated that the charity War on Want had recently been bankrupt. Although the charity was considered potentially insolvent in early 1990, a survival package was put into effect and its financial affairs are now on a sound footing. We apologise for the error.

Charter marks from "the voice of god"

John Major thinks the Citizen's Charter is great, but as Douglas Broom reports, the public is yet to be persuaded

The Citizen's Charter cleared another hurdle last week with the presentation by the prime minister of the first 36 charter marks to public bodies which have succeeded in implementing its principles.

That John Major was prepared to take time off from grappling with the fate of sterling and the Maastricht Treaty was a sign of the importance he attaches to the charter. Sadly, as the following morning's newspaper wafer-thin coverage of the event demonstrated, he has a long way to go to persuade the public that the charter means as much to them.

No effort was spared in making the presentation ceremony a glittering event. Winners were presented with their stately steel plaques under the opulent Rubens ceiling of the Banqueting House in Whitehall.

On a floodlit dais, winners came to shake the prime ministerial hand while a loudspeaker system, described in the programme as "the voice of god", relayed their achievements. The effect was reminiscent of the *Sale of the Century*, and did nothing to dispel the sense that the whole charter initiative still lacks substance. The content of the citations only added to the impression.

Both Stowupland School, Stowupland, in Suffolk, and Her Majesty's Prison Dugswell, in Scotland, were praised by the "voice of god" for requiring their staff to wear badges when dealing with customers. Just who these "customers" were was left to the imagination.

Of course the whole "customer care" revolution has required public sector managers to swallow large doses of alien jargon. So perhaps we should not balk at

regarding the Moors murderers as "customers" of the prison system. What does fail to convince the public, however, is the claim that changing the language will automatically improve the service. By itself, the awards ceremony failed to demonstrate that the charter has changed cultures.

The rather glib nature of the official citations suggested that good intentions were as important as actual achievements. For example, Croydon's environmental health department won a charter mark because it is planning to introduce a 24-hour service to respond to complaints about noise. Westminster city council, which already has such a

The very act of entering the competition, he said, had helped the 300 councils who took part to adapt their services to the needs of local people, the "customers" that the government wants to assist.

Certainly an examination of the work done by those bodies that won awards suggests the Citizen's Charter has changed the way some local authorities think, although for many it has given impetus to a process already under way.

Brian Briscoe, chief executive of Hertfordshire county council, was at the ceremony to see the award of a charter mark to his "transportation department". Even the American-sounding name of the department is intended to reflect user-friendliness. "Highways", its previous name, was dropped because it failed to encompass its full range of activities, from repairing roads to designing traffic and public transport plans for the county's towns.

"We started a management review two years ago, the purpose of which was to focus on customers. The charter has really given a framework in which to develop that work, which already involved setting targets for dealing with letters and phone calls."

The council has a 24-hour hotline which is connected to the fire service headquarters after office hours. Any emergency repair calls are passed on at once, while other enquiries are passed to the relevant staff first thing on the next working day.

Each council department has its own charter. For instance, the council promises to repair dangerous potholes in the road within 24 hours, and the service has drawn praise from delighted residents.

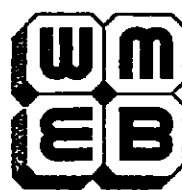


On the dais and full of good intentions

service, did not win a charter mark.

Sir James Blyth, chief executive of Boots and chairman of the judging panel, insisted at the ceremony that great care had been taken to ensure that promises had been fulfilled. William Waldegrave, the minister responsible for the charter, said the public would notice the difference in the areas where public service providers had followed the charter.

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